Hafa Adai!

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Four sites designated for early voting on Saipan, NI. PAGE 3

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Saipan Tribune

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Bonny Cruz is CNMI TOY

By JUSTINE NAUTA
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REPORTER

Bonny Cruz, a 5th-grade teacher at Koblerville Elementary School who has been with the Public School System for over six years, was named yesterday as the 2021 State Teacher of the Year.

Cruz was recognized as the 2021 CNMI PSS State Teacher of the Year, with members of the Board of Education and PSS blindsiding her with the recognition at the BOE board meeting yesterday.

As State Teacher of the Year, Cruz will compete at a national level. Education Commissioner Dr. Alfred Ada

See BONNY on Page 4

Bonny Cruz, left, a 5th-grade teacher at Koblerville Elementary School and 2021 State Teacher of the Year, poses with her mom, Patty Cruz, yesterday at the Public School System administration building on Capital Hill. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

MVA suspends Japan and Taiwan offices

Cavanagh

In light of the continued worldwide drop in tourism and dwindling local revenue, the Marianas Visitors Authority board of directors voted yesterday to implement a 90-day suspension for its contracted representative office in Japan. The representative office in Taiwan has been temporarily suspended since April 2020, and the MVA is also working to further reduce services by its representative office in Korea.

The move also follows a termination of the MVA's China representative office in June 2020. The MVA, usually funded almost entirely by hotel occupancy tax collections, has already furloughed almost 70% of its staff and is bracing itself for further belt-tightening in fiscal

See MVA on Page 4

AT A GLANCE

As of 6pm, Sept. 29, 2020

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	2,286	104	2,390
Recovered	1,662	133	1,795
Active	446	104	550
Deaths	43	3	46
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested			49,389

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	70	0	70
Deaths	2	0	2
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested			19,345*

*Total count includes the number of persons tested on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. With guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CHCC has opted not to report active and recovered cases. The community-based testing has been temporarily suspended.

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Health Care Corp.

TO AVOID PARTIAL SHUTDOWN

Torres offers help to Legislature

» Conference committee members start work to resolve disagreements

FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres expressed optimism yesterday that the Legislature's conference committee will resolve the Senate and House of Representatives' disagreements and will lead to the passage of a budget bill for fiscal year 2021 and avoid a partial government shutdown.

Torres also offered in a letter to Senate President Victor B.

See TORRES on Page 4

Ruling reversed on foreign worker in removal proceedings

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit recently reversed a ruling that found a foreign worker deportable from the CNMI after the Consolidated Natural Resources Act was enacted in November 2009.

Catherine Lopena Torres, who was present in the Commonwealth when the Immigration and Nationality Act or INA became applicable to the CNMI, was found not removable pursuant to the new ruling.

See RULING on Page 4

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:
- **Red:** Least safe
- **Orange**
- **Yellow**
- **Blue**
- **Green:** Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

INSIDE

BUSINESS
Loving Hands Daycare Center in San Antonio and its new branch have reopened.
PAGE 20

SUPPLEMENT
Check out today's pullout supplement called Parenting Today, which starts on Page 11.
PAGE 11

LIFE & STYLE
Ai Weiwei staged a protest against the extradition of WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange to the U.S.
PAGE 23

SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

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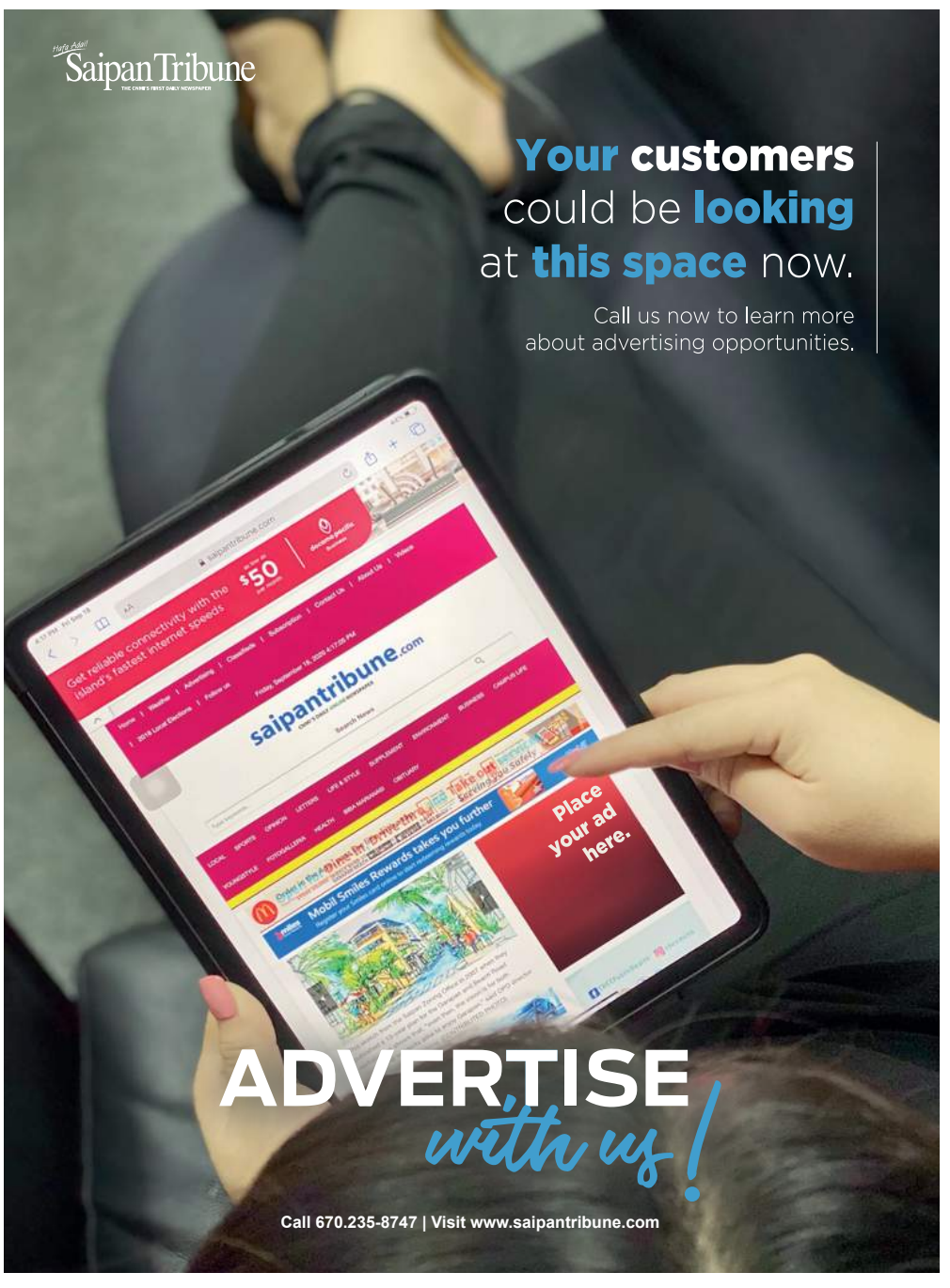
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Local

House minority bloc saddened by Propst's resignation

FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

» **Lawmakers vow to continue fight vs public corruption**

» **Sen. Manglona says resignation the result of coordinated GOP attacks**

Members of the House minority bloc said yesterday that, although they are deeply saddened by minority leader Rep. Edwin Propst's (D-Saipan) resignation from office, they understand and respect his decision to prioritize his family and his health at this time.

Propst

In a joint statement, Reps. Edmund Villagomez (Ind-Saipan), Tina Sablan (D-Saipan), Sheila Babauta (D-Saipan), Donald Manglona (Ind-Rota), and Richard Lizama (D-Saipan) said that, throughout his three terms in office and as minority leader, Propst has been a champion for transparent and responsible government, and a strong voice against public corruption, political intimidation, and misuse of public funds.

Propst stepped down from his job Monday, saying he has reached his limits due to an extremely stressful job, the attacks on his name, and cyber bullying. His last official day is tomorrow, Thursday.

Villagomez vowed that they will keep "fighting the good fight" that Propst had led these past six years for the people they serve and the brighter future that they envision.

"May God bless Rep. Propst and his family, and our Northern Mariana Islands," Villagomez said.

Sablan said that Propst has inspired them and many citizens to get involved in the community to stay informed about the issues, and to speak up and do what's right even when it's difficult.

"Again and again, he has shown us all what it means to be courageous," Sablan said.

Babauta said that Propst has endured tremendous stress and made many personal sacrifices during his time in office, and that they respect his decision to take this time now to reset and refocus. "It takes courage, too, to be honest about our limits and to make necessary life changes in order to take care of our health and our families," Babauta said.

Manglona said they are confident that, in time, Propst will once again find ways to help others and serve the community "as he always has."

Lizama said that Propst has

See HOUSE on Page 4

FOR CNMI HUMANITIES MONTH

Humanities Fridays in October

The Northern Marianas Humanities Council will launch "Humanities Fridays" and other activities in October 2020 to celebrate CNMI Humanities Month.

Humanities Fridays are one-hour Zoom webinar presentations scheduled at 10am and 5pm (Chamorro Standard Time) on each Friday in October, featuring a range of humanities topics.

"We reached out to various groups and individuals who are either doing the humanities or have made the effort to study an issue or topic that has some relevance to our community," said council chair Robert Torres. "Humanities Fridays is our way of starting conversations that we hope will inspire reflection, push the boundaries of our collective imagination and create new ways to express interests and experiences within our diverse communities."

Humanities Fridays topics and presenters are scheduled as follows:

■ Oct. 2, 2020

❖ 10am, Sophia Perez, Tip of the Spear: How Mariana Islanders See Their Relationship with the U.S. military;

❖ 5pm, Marilynn Marron, Maureen Sebangiol, and Pam Brown, Soroptimists of the Northern Mariana Islands

■ Oct. 9, 2020

❖ 10am, Hanna Jugo, Adaptive Strategies to Food Insecurity within the Chuukese Community of Guam

❖ 5pm, Fu'una Sanz, I Tinilaikan Numiru gi Fino' CHamoru: Changes in Chamorro Plurality

■ Oct. 16, 2020

❖ 10am, Thomas Mangloña, Democracy and the Informed Citizen

❖ 5pm, Vana Quichocho, Håyi Ham På'go: Understanding How Chamoru Identity and Acculturation Styles Affect the Psychological Well-Being of Third Generation World War II Chamoru People in Guam

■ Oct. 23, 2020

❖ 10am, Joey P. San Nicholas and Kimberly King- Hinds, Ti Un Chuli' Hulu' Gi Langhet

❖ 5pm, Kayle Tydingco, Tiningo' Famalåo'an: Oral Histories & Non-fiction Stories of Chamorro Women

■ Oct. 30, 2020

❖ 10am, Leonard Leon, Super Typhoon Yutu: The Human Experience

Visit www.nmhcouncil.org to register and view presentation descriptions. For questions and comments, email info@nmhcouncil.org, or phone: 670-235-4785.

Humanities Fridays is supported by funding received from the National Endowment for the Humanities. Any views, findings, conclusions or recommendations expressed in this publication do not necessarily represent those of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

The Northern Marianas Humanities Council is a private, non-profit (Educational Tax Credit eligible) organization established in the CNMI in 1991. Its mission is to foster awareness, understanding, and appreciation of the humanities through support of educational programs that relate the humanities to the indigenous cultures and to the intellectual needs and interests of the people of the Commonwealth. ***(PR)***

SAIPAN HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
Office of the Mayor
Municipality of Saipan

NOTICE OF REGULAR SHEFA BOARD MEETING

In accordance with 1 CMC § 9901 *et seq.*, as amended, the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance October 1st, 2020 at 9:30 am at the SHEFA Conference Room, 2nd Floor, CTC Building, Oleai, Beach Road, Saipan.

AGENDA

I. **Preliminary Matters**
   1. Roll Call
   2. Adoption of Agenda
   3. Adoption of Minutes from July 30, 2020

II. **Public Comment**

III. **Reports**
   1. Administrator
   2. Chair
   3. Committee
      a. Committee on Awards
      b. Committee on Appeal/Deferments/ Forbearance
      c. Committee on Policy and Procedures
      d. Committee on Program and Development
      e. Committee of Fiscal, Legislative and Community Affairs

IV. **Old Business**
   1. Start Smart at the Northern Marianas College
   2. Service Obligation of Active Military Personnel/Reservist

V. **New Business**
   1. Fall 2020 Application Status

VI. **Executive Session**

VII. **Misc.**

VIII. **Next Meeting**

IX. **Adjournment**

Note: Meeting may continue the following day should the need arise.

Four sites designated for early voting on Saipan, NI

The Commonwealth Election Commission has designated four polling sites for the 21-day early voting for Saipan and Northern Islands that will start on Oct. 13.

CEC executive director Julita A. Villagomez said yesterday that the designated polling places are the Koblerville Youth Center in Koblerville, the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe, the Tanapag Youth Center in Tanapag, and the Kagman Youth Center in Kagman.

Villagomez

For those 55 years old or older and those with disabilities, they can vote from 8am to 9am, while all other registered voters will be accommodated from 9am to 5pm.

Villagomez said that all voters must make sure to bring with them an identification card with picture as they will be required to present it in order to be issued a ballot.

The Koblerville Youth Center is for voters from Precinct 1A (San Antonio), Precinct 1B (San Vicente), and Precinct 1C (Koblerville).

The Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center is for voters from Precinct 2 (Chalan Kanoa), Precinct 3A (San Jose), Precinct 3B (Garapan), Precinct 4D (Northern Islands), Precinct 6 (Tinian & Aguiguan), and Precinct 7 (Rota).

Residents of Rota, Tinian, and the Northern Islands who are temporarily residing on Saipan can vote early at Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center.

The Tanapag Youth Center is for voters from Precinct 4A (Tanapag), Precinct 4B (San Roque), and Precinct 4C (Capital Hill).

The Kagman Community Center is for voters from Precinct 4C (Kagman).

The seven-day early voting on Tinian and Rota will commence on Oct. 27. Villagomez said they will announce soon the designated polling sites on Tinian and Rota for the early voting.

The general elections will be on Nov. 3. ***(Ferdie De La Torre)***

Relucio lands on dean's list at Seton Hall

SOUTH ORANGE, NJ— Seton Hall University announced yesterday that Ryan Christian Relucio of Saipan has qualified for the spring 2020 dean's list.

After the close of every semester, undergraduate students completing all courses with a GPA of 3.4, with no grades lower than "C", qualify for the dean's list.

Seton Hall is one of the nation's leading Catholic universities. Home to over 10,000 undergraduate and graduate students and offering more than 90 majors, Seton Hall's academic excellence has been singled out for distinction by The Princeton Review, U.S. News & World Report and Bloomberg Businessweek. ***(PR)***

*On approved credit (OAC). Some conditions apply. Doc fees and registration not included. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Vehicles may not be exactly as shown. See dealer for more details. Maximum credit card payment toward vehicle purchase is $2,500.

Guam: 3 more COVID-19-related fatalities

By JUSTINE NAUTA
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REPORTER

Guam reported three more COVID-19-related fatalities last Sept. 28, with ages ranging from 40 to 79, raising the U.S. territory's total number of fatalities to 46.

According to the Joint Information Center, the 44th fatality happened at the Guam Memorial Hospital at approximately 9:15am last Sept. 28. The individual was a 58-year-old female who had underlying health conditions that were compounded by COVID-19 and had tested positive for COVID-19 upon arrival at GMH last Sept. 2.

JIC reported that the 45th fatality occurred at approximately 3:23pm at GMH. The patient was a 79-year-old male with comorbidities. He was admitted to GMH last Aug. 29 and tested positive upon admission.

The 46th fatality also happened at GMC. The individual, a 44-year-old woman, tested positive upon arrival at GMH last Sept. 28 and was pronounced dead on the same day at approximately 7pm.

"It is never easy losing more people to COVID-19," said Guam Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero in announcing the passing of the three individuals last Sept. 28. She extended her condolences to all the three individual's family, friends, and those who are dear to them.

"We cannot let our guard down. Our actions do not just affect us—they affect our family, friends, colleagues, and community. We need to do whatever we can to end our days of grief," said Leon Guerrero.

COVID-19 has infected more than 2,390 individuals, and have taken 46 lives, however, COVID-19 isolation has already taken 15 lives as of Sept. 5.

Also, from January to August, Guam's Office of the Chief Medical Examiner recorded 26 suicides, an average of 3.25 a month. From the month of June through August, there were 15 suicides, five each month, in the last three months alone.

The COVID-19 pandemic is never easy for those whose mental health is severe to stay in isolation for a long period of time. This is why the Guam Behavioral Health and Wellness Center has a Crisis Hotline that is available 24/7 at (671) 647-8833/4.

"For those feeling anxious, stressed, overwhelmed, or are needing to talk to someone, GBHWC has experienced providers available and ready to assist the community with any heightened stress and anxiety experienced as a result of COVID-19," said JIC.

TORRES

From Page 1

Hocog (R-Rota) and House Speaker Blas Jonathan T. Attao (R-Saipan) whatever assistance his office can help with to assist the conference committee with their work.

The conference committee started its work yesterday to iron out the two chambers' disagreements on the CNMI's appropriations bill. They have only until midnight tonight to resolve their differences, get the budget bill passed by both Senate and House, and get it to the desk of Torres before Oct. 1 hits. Otherwise, most of the CNMI government will have to shut down until a budget is enacted. When *Saipan Tribune* left the Senate chamber yesterday, committee members were still discussing their rules.

Torres assured Hocog and Attao that he and Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios will be available all day, should they or members of the conference committee need the administration's assistance or have any questions related to the budget.

"As the deadline for the passage of the budget nears, I am hopeful that we can all work together to avert a shutdown of the government," the governor said.

Senate vice president Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian) and Rep. Ivan A. Blanco (R-Saipan) are presiding over the conference committee. The other members in the Senate team are Sens. Vinnie F. Sablan (R-Saipan) and Teresita A. Santos (Ind-Rota). Sen. Francisco Q. Cruz (R-Tinian) is an alternate. The other members in the House team are floor leader Rep. John Paul Sablan (R-Saipan) and Rep. Joseph Lee Pan Guerrero (R-Saipan). Rep. Joel C. Camacho (R-Saipan) is an alternate.

The conference committee was created after the House rejected the Senate's version of the budget bill with an 18-2 vote during Sunday's special session.

Last Saturday, the Senate passed its version of the budget bill that proposes $96.47 million in available revenue and resources for appropriation for fiscal year 2021.

The Senate's version is $13.81 million more than what the House had adopted in the amount of $82.65 million.

Last July 1, Torres submitted a revised revenue projection in the amount of $144.41 million. Of this amount, the governor approved $82.65 million for government appropriation.

RULING

From Page 1

The Ninth Circuit granted in part and denied in part Torres' petition for review of a decision of the Board of Immigration Appeals and overruled a previous decision made by the Ninth Circuit regarding a similar case.

In its ruling dated Sept. 24, 2020, the Ninth Circuit stated that the sudden imposition of the INA could have rendered thousands of guest workers and other lawful residents under CNMI law removable overnight. In an effort to ensure that these guest workers and others like them were not unfairly penalized and that the CNMI economy would not be destabilized by the deportation of previously admitted guest workers, U.S. Congress provided a two-year reprieve in which any alien "lawfully present in the Commonwealth" on Nov. 28, 2009, could not be removed for being present in the U.S. without admission or parole.

Starting in 2010, just months after the INA went into effect in the CNMI, the federal government began charging some CNMI residents as removable under 8 U.S.C. § 1182(a)(7), a provision of the INA not covered by the CNRA's two-year reprieve, for failing to possess a valid entry document at the time of application for admission.

The Ninth Circuit said many CNMI residents, like Torres, challenged their removal on the basis that, because they had not yet submitted an application for admission into the U.S., they were not removable under this provision.

Likewise, many CNMI residents, like the petitioner in *Minto v. Sessions*, would have had no reason to apply for entry papers into the U.S., as they had entered before such papers were required. Yet, under Minto, all were removable for lack of documentation under § 1182(a)(7) despite Congress' expressed intent that they be permitted to remain for at least two years after the INA went into effect.

Because of this, the Ninth Circuit found that the Minto case was wrongfully decided and must be overruled.

However, the ruling also found Torres ineligible for cancellation of removal by failing to establish 10 years of continuous presence in the U.S. and that the appellate court lacked jurisdiction to consider her request to remand the case to DHS to consider her application for parole in place.

Torres, who is originally from the Philippines, entered the CNMI lawfully as a guest worker in 1997 and, by 2009, she had given birth to three U.S citizen children.

After the enactment of the CNRA, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security served Torres with a notice to appear, charging her with being removable as a noncitizen present in the United States without being admitted or paroled, and as a noncitizen who, at the time of application for admission, lacked a valid entry document.

Torres contested her removability before the immigration judge, saying that because she had lawfully entered the CNMI in 1997 before the INA went into effect, and because she had never submitted an application for admission into the U.S., she fell outside the scope of the provision.

But the immigration judge rejected her argument and ordered Torres removed, which the Board of Immigration Appeals also affirmed.

The Ninth Circuit previously held in *Minto v. Sessions* that a respondent "present in the CNMI without admission or parole on Nov. 28, 2009" who was placed in removal proceedings was "deemed" to be "an applicant for admission" and removable for not possessing a valid entry document at the time of application for admission.

The Ninth Circuit then denied Torres' petition for review initially; but later a majority of non-recused active judges of the Ninth Circuit voted to rehear the case.

MVA

From Page 1

year 2021, as tourism is not expected to begin to resume until Summer 2021 at the earliest, but most likely late 2021.

Acting MVA board chair Gloria Cavanagh underscored the need for the MVA to continue operations and maintain response readiness despite extremely low visitor arrivals from only Guam and the U.S. and reduced revenue.

"The MVA helps drive the Marianas economy. You can spend money on all of our government services, but really, the MVA is the only agency that actually spends money to generate money," Cavanagh said. "If the MVA is not funded, then we're going to be in the same position after this COVID-19 situation is over as we are today, because we would have ceased promotions and marketing in our source countries. To defund the MVA would further immobilize the Marianas tourism economy both immediately and long-term."

The MVA is represented by TAMS in Korea and by Access Inc. in Japan. The offices conduct marketing and promotions through professional contacts and with cultural expertise in their respective countries. Since the COVID-19 outbreak, marketing and promotions have been minimized, but the offices continue to play a primary role in keeping The Marianas public and private sector updated on source market COVID-19 related protocols and requirements, tourism business changes and future planning, and travel sentiments. The offices are also conducting low-cost promotions, including social media campaigns, to maintain public awareness of and interested in The Marianas.

The MVA has recently been awarded $10.8-million Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery for brand development of the Marianas. However, Cavanagh emphasized that the grant cannot be used for other purposes,

"The CDBG grants are extremely specific, and we cannot use any of that grant money for operations, including off-shore offices," she said.

Keeping both companies on-board will help the Marianas respond quickly to any positive changes in travel trends. ***(PR)***

BONNY

From Page 1

said that this will be the second year that the CNMI PSS will compete at the state level.

Part of the honor accorded to state teachers of the year is meeting the U.S. President at the White House and getting together with other teachers of the year for training and seminars in the U.S. mainland.

As part of her prize, Cruz was awarded an iPad, a technology packet that will help her with remote learning, and a professional plaque that will be passed down to the next TOY.

Cruz thanked her family, her students and their families, and those who were present at the meeting who took time out to get to know her and her passion for the education.

Ada said this year's TOY celebration came down to a choice among the Teacher of the Year of Marianas High School, the Francisco M. Sablan Middle School, Hopwood Middle School, Oleai Elementary School, Koblerville Elementary School, and San Vicente Elementary School, who were all present at yesterday's BOE meeting.

"All of you are standing there in front of us are our true leaders, especially during this pandemic, and this economic downfall and what we're experiencing within the CNMI as well as the Public School System," said BOE chair Janice Tenorio. She applauded the finalists for the TOY award for working hard toward getting the schools ready for online learning.

Galvin Deleon Guerrero, who is president of Mount Carmel School and represents private schools on the PSS board, and was a member of this year's TOY committee, said that every nominee deserves the recognition, knowing how rigorous and difficult it is to be a teacher during this pandemic. "Through all the financial challenges, teachers have kept their heads above the fray and just stayed focused and truly inspired all of us," he said. "The entire community thanks you so much and congratulations and keep fighting this fight, and know that we are with you."

HOUSE

From Page 2

faithfully served Precinct 1 and the Commonwealth "as a true and honest leader" for the past six years. "He has given his all to help our people, and especially those in greatest need. We are grateful for his service."

Sen. Paul A. Manglona (Ind-Rota) said yesterday that Propst's resignation is a sad day for the people of the CNMI and described it as the result of a "coordinated attack by the GOP."

Manglona said everybody knows that all these unsubstantiated accusations against Propst are being hurled amidst a Special Legislative Committee's investigation of public corruption, fraud, waste, and abuse of public funds by Gov Ralph DLG Torres.

"We will soon find out that this hit job will backfire on the GOP this upcoming Nov. 3 election," the senator said.

Last Sept. 17, the Department of Public Safety confirmed that a complaint had been filed against Propst. DPS spokesman Dre Pangelinan said DPS is looking into the complaint but did not share any specifics.

Irene Holl, a concerned citizen, recently asked House Speaker Blas Jonathan T. Attao (R-Saipan) to conduct an ethics investigation into allegations of sexual misconduct against Propst while he was a teacher at the Marianas High School and also at the Northern Marianas College.

Holl furnished copies of the letter to Torres and Attorney General Edward Manibusan.

Propst's current term was supposed to end on Jan. 11, 2021. Although he previously ran as in independent, he's running as a Democrat for re-election to represent Precinct 1 in the upcoming Nov. 3 general elections.

Prior to joining the Legislature, Propst worked in education and owned a photography business.

Torres, 164 others back Barrett nom to Supreme Court

Together with 165 federal and state Republican officials from across the United States, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres expressed his support for President Donald J. Trump's nomination of Judge Amy Coney Barrett to the Supreme Court.

"Judge…Barrett is an accomplished and excellent jurist who will serve all Americans from Washington to the territories honorably on our nation's highest court. She brings a wealth of knowledge and extensive experience from her work in private practice, in academia as a distinguished legal scholar and professor, and in public service as a bipartisan-supported federal judge on the U.S. Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals," said Torres in a press statement yesterday. "I wholeheartedly support President Trump in making another exceptional choice to the Supreme Court, and I congratulate Judge Barrett and wish her the best for a smooth and thorough confirmation process."

Barrett

Torres joined 115 Republican congressional leaders, including Senate majority leader Mitch McConnell and House minority leader Kevin McCarthy and 20 other Republican governors in their collective support for Trump's nomination of Barrett. Sixteen state attorneys general have also conveyed their support.

"President Trump could not have made a better decision. Judge Amy Coney Barrett is an exceptionally impressive jurist and an exceedingly well-qualified nominee to the Supreme Court of the United States," said McConnell.

"President Trump just knocked it out of the park with his Supreme Court nominee. There is no question that Amy Coney Barrett is the best-qualified person to uphold the Constitution. The Senate should confirm her quickly," said McCarthy.

Barrett has served as a judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 7th Circuit since 2017. Before becoming a judge, she was the Diane and M.O. Miller, II Research Chair in Law and Professor of Law at Notre Dame Law School, where her scholarship focused on constitutional and statutory interpretation and the federal courts. Barrett has also served as a Visiting Associate Professor of Law at the University of Virginia Law School and the John M. Olin Fellow in Law at George Washington University Law School. Earlier in her career, she practiced at the prestigious law firms Miller, Cassidy, Larroca & Lewin LLP and Baker Botts LLP. Barrett clerked on the Supreme Court for Justice Antonin Scalia and for Judge Laurence H. Silberman on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit. She is a magna cum laude graduate of Rhodes College in Tennessee and a summa cum laude graduate of Notre Dame Law School, where she graduated first in her class.

Barrett is known for her keen intellect, piercing legal analysis, and generous spirit. Barrett lives in Indiana with her husband, Jesse, and their seven children. ***(PR)***

CONGRESSMAN
GREGORIO KILILI
CAMACHO SABLAN
Serving the People of the Northern Mariana Islands
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR
MILITARY SERVICE ACADEMY
CONGRESSIONAL NOMINATIONS
Opportunities to learn and serve at the U.S. Service Academy include a fully funded education and a commission as a military officer upon graduation.
Congressman Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan may nominate constituents to the
U.S. Merchant Marine Academy
U.S. Military Academy
U.S. Air Force Academy
U.S. Naval Academy
Eligibility: U.S. citizen, unmarried with no dependents, age 17-23, high school senior or graduate, strong academic record, and ability to pass a physical fitness test.
To access the nomination application or for more information, visit sablan.house.gov or call 670-323-2647/8 on Saipan, 433-2647 on Tinian, or 532-2647 on Rota.
This mailing was prepared, published, and mailed at taxpayer expense.

OPEN SATURDAYS & SUNDAYS
OCTOBER WEEKEND PROMOTION
WE WILL BE OPENING OCTOBER 03,2020
WORLD RESORT SAIPAN
Wave Jungle
10:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Entrance Price:
$24 ADULT / $17 CHILD
Kids 4-11 (3 yrs. & below are free)
Restrictions for Water park:
*Need to bring own towel
*No outside food and drinks allowed
*17 years and below must be accompanied by an adult
Sunset Beach Bar OPEN
11:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Snack & Beverages
Wave Jungle + THE BUFFET WORLD
Package (Water Park & Lunch):
$34 ADULT / $22 CHILD
Kids 4-11 (3 yrs. & below are free)
THE BUFFET WORLD
11:00 AM - 2:00 PM
Price:
$22 ADULT / $11 CHILD
Kids 4-11 (3 yrs. & below are free)
FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL:
OTHER RESTRICTIONS MAY APPLY
234-5900

Kilili asks Torres anew for transparency on election money

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) has renewed his request to Gov. Ralph DLG Torres for public disclosure of how $1.2 million in federal election security funds have been spent.

Sablan wrote Torres on July 30, shortly after the House Subcommittee on Elections held a hearing on barriers to voting in the U.S. insular areas, asking for an accounting of the funds. To date, the governor has not replied and explained what happened to the money.

Sablan

Congress provided the Commonwealth with $1.2 million to upgrade voting equipment, conduct election auditing, make online registration available, strengthen cybersecurity, better track campaign financing, and implement vote-by-mail for all voters. The funds could also be used to increase the number of voting places to reduce crowding and long waits during the coronavirus pandemic.

"There has been so much talk from the President about how our election system is not reliable," Sablan said, "I think people in the Marianas have a right to know what the governor had done with the money Congress provided to increase public confidence in the election and make it as easy as possible for everyone to vote.

"The Marianas receives hundreds of millions of dollars in federal grant funds and what happens to all that money is not always clear. In this one specific instance, the governor should be able to answer the simple question of how he used the election assistance money."

Half of the $1.2 million was provided to the Commonwealth in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, Public Law 116-93, in December 2019. The other half came from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, Public Law 116-136, enacted in March 2020. The Commonwealth Election Commission operates on an election year budget of $222,750. ***(PR)***

'New relief bill has $1B for CNMI'

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The cash-strapped Commonwealth government would receive over $1 billion under terms of a new coronavirus relief bill released last night. Democrats plan to pass the bill in the House this week. The bill also sets aside $14 million specifically for food aid in the Marianas.

» $14M more for Marianas food aid

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) said he has been working for the extra food aid ever since Gov. Ralph DLG Torres notified him on Aug. 26 of an $11,527,811 shortfall in the Marianas Nutrition Assistance Program.

"We are giving the governor more than he asked for," Sablan said. "I spoke with [House] Speaker Nancy Pelosi on Sunday about the need for more food aid. She agreed to increase what was in the HEROES Act we passed in May—before the governor reported a shortfall—from $1.822 million for the Marianas to the $14 million I asked for."

In general, the new relief act reduces funding from amounts in the May HEROES Act, but Pelosi made an exception in the case of Sablan.

"I am very grateful to the Speaker for listening to my plea on behalf of the thousands of families in the Marianas, whose food aid the governor has threatened to cut," Sablan said. "I again ask the governor to wait to take such drastic action that will hurt so many people, until we see whether Senate Republicans and the President agree to more relief funding."

Sablan also said he continues to stand by Pelosi's decision not to cave in to Republicans and the President, who have refused to provide any money to the Commonwealth and other state and territorial governments facing bankruptcy because of the coronavirus.

"The governor thinks it would be smart to accept Senate Republicans and the White House offer of no money," Sablan said. "I think it is better for the people of the Commonwealth to hold out for the $1 billion that Democrats have allocated for our islands."

In addition, the Democrats' new relief bill has $14 million for the municipalities of Saipan, Tinian, Rota, and the Northern Islands, $39 million for Marianas schools, and $8.9 million to help renters and homeowners on the islands. The monies are distributed nationwide based on population.

Another $1,200 impact payment; Unemployment extended; More PPP

Three other important federal lifelines are also continued in the Democrats' new bill. Taxpayers will receive another $1,200 impact payment with an additional $500 per child.

And those who lost their jobs because of the coronavirus will see their Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation payment of $600 per week extended through January 2021.

Democrats also responded to Sablan's request that unemployed CW workers be eligible for both the $600 per week FPUC and the $345 per week Pandemic Unemployment Assistance that he added the Marianas to in the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act in March.

"Congress intended PUA and FPUC to cover all workers," Sablan said. "But the Trump administration decided to cut out foreign workers in the Marianas. Section 702 of our new bill now makes it clear that CW workers will get unemployment assistance just like everyone else. That will help them and pump even more money into the Marianas economy, when we desperately need it."

Lastly, businesses and nonprofits will again have access to Payroll Protection Program loans with special targeted assistance for restaurants and independent live venue operators. In the Marianas, 482 PPP loans were approved before the program ended. The forgivable loans were worth $38.7 million. ***(PR)***

COMMONWEALTH LOTTERY COMMISSION

PUBLIC NOTICE

A Special Meeting of the Commonwealth Lottery Commission will be held at 9 a.m. on Thursday, October 8, 2020, in the conference room at the Juan Sablan Memorial Building on Capitol Hill, Saipan. The public is invited to attend.

The following is the proposed agenda:

I. Call to Order
II. Roll Call/Determination of Quorum
III. Public Comment
IV. Adoption of Agenda
V. Adoption of Minutes
VI. Old Business
  A. Amendments to Casino License Agreement (#8)
    1. Live Training Facility
    2. Local Hiring Requirements
VII. New Business
  A. Amendments to Casino License Agreement (#9)
    1. Exclusive License
    2. Casino License Fees ($15.5M) Payment Plan
    3. Defer 2020 Community Benefit Fund
    4. Commonwealth Casino Commission (CCC) Authority over Hotel Construction and Operations vs. Gaming Operations
    5. P.L. 20-85 – Casino Bad Debt Collection
    6. Force Majeure triggers for License Fees in the future
    7. CCC Regulatory Fees – request for reduced amount.
    8. Online Gaming
VIII. Executive Session
IX. Adjournment

For further information, please contact the Lottery Commission by telephone through the Office of the Finance Secretary at 664-1100.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: DPW20-ITB-026

SUBMISSION DATE: October 28, 2020 TIME: 9:30 A.M

"Phase I Office Renovation for the Commonwealth Bureau of Military Affairs Facility (Building A & B), Saipan"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, LOCATED ON SECOND FLOOR, OLEAI JOETEN COMMERCIAL CENTER, SAN JOSE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

A non-refundable payment of **One Hundred Dollars ($100.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at DPW Technical Services Division required for each set.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **October 13, 2020**, 9:00 a.m. local time at the Department of Public Works Conference Room 2nd Floor, Lower Base Transfer Station, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **October 20, 2020** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ PETER P. CAMACHO
ACTING SECRETARY, DPW

/S/ GLENNA SP. REYES
SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE GOVERNOR OF MILITARY AFFAIRS

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: DPW20-ITB-027

SUBMISSION DATE: October 28, 2020 TIME: 10:00 A.M

"Phase II Office Renovation for the Commonwealth Bureau of Military Affairs Facility (Building A & B), Saipan"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, LOCATED ON SECOND FLOOR, OLEAI JOETEN COMMERCIAL CENTER, SAN JOSE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

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SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE GOVERNOR OF MILITARY AFFAIRS

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: DPW20-ITB-028

SUBMISSION DATE: October 28, 2020 TIME: 10:30 A.M.

"Phase 3 Office Renovation for the Commonwealth Bureau of Military Affairs Facility (Building A & B), Saipan"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, LOCATED ON SECOND FLOOR, OLEAI JOETEN COMMERCIAL CENTER, SAN JOSE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

A non-refundable payment of **One Hundred Dollars ($100.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at DPW Technical Services Division required for each set.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **October 13, 2020**, 11:00 a.m. local time at the Department of Public Works Conference Room 2nd Floor, Lower Base Transfer Station, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **October 20, 2020** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

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/S/ GLENNA SP. REYES
SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE GOVERNOR OF MILITARY AFFAIRS

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

Robert Tenorio Torres
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 285-3750 | Fax. (670) 234-5749
Attorney for Petitioner Merced M. Tomokane for Claimant Bank of Guam

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF: JUAN BLANCO CAMACHO, Deceased.
) Civil Action No. 20-0296-CV
) AMENDED NOTICE OF HEARING AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS
) JUDGE: Joseph N. Camacho
) Date: October 8, 2020
) Time: 10:00 a.m.
) Courtroom: Supreme Court, Courtroom

TO: THE GENERAL PUBLIC, ANY HEIRS, CLAIMANTS, OR CREDITORS OF THE LATE JUAN BLANCO CAMACHO OR HIS ESTATE:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Merced M. Tomokane ("Petitioner") has petitioned the Superior Court to issue Letters of Administration and to appoint Michael C. Camacho as administrator of the **ESTATE OF JUAN BLANCO CAMACHO**, the deceased. The attorney for Petitioner is Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, whose address is Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya) P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950.

The hearing on the Petition is scheduled to be heard on the date at the time set forth above at the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands. All interested persons and entities should appear at the hearing.

Any and all persons, creditors, or entities having claims against the deceased or his Estate are hereby required by the law to file their claims with the Clerk of Court within sixty (60) days of this publication or claim(s) will be barred. A copy of your claims should also be sent to **ROBERT T. TORRES, Attorney at Law**, at the above address.

Respectfully submitted this 21st day of September 2020.

__/s/_____
CLERK OF COURT/DEPUTY CLERK

NAP benefits cut by 25% on Oct. 1

The CNMI's Nutrition Assistance Program funding availability for fiscal year 2021 is nearly half of the funding that was available in fiscal year 2020, which ends on Sept.r 30, 2020. The funding that will be available to the CNMI for fiscal year 2021 is anticipated to be $22.733 million. Of this amount, $17.365 million will be allocated for Program Benefits.

However, current estimates indicate that $31.125 million will be needed for Program Benefits in order to continue the current levels. This presents a shortfall of $13.760 million compared to the amount allocated for Program Benefits of $17.365 million for fiscal year 2021. Because funding for the funding is controlled by Congress, the CNMI is required to make adjustments to reduce the NAP income eligibility levels and benefit levels to stay within the block grant amount.

As a result of the shortfall, the CNMI NAP will be reducing the income eligibility standards and maximum benefit allotments by 25% beginning Oct. 1, 2020, to March 31, 2021. Moreover, these levels would be further reduced to the pre-ENAP (2016) levels from April 1, 2021, to Sept. 30, 2021.

Income Eligibility Standards

Household Size	FY 2020 Level	Effective October 1, 2020	Effective April 1, 2021
1	$1,041	$781	$541
2	$1,410	$1,058	$672
3	$1,778	$1,334	$805
4	$2,146	$1,610	$933
5	$2,515	$1,886	$1,065
6	$2,883	$2,162	$1,197
7	$3,251	$2,438	$1,332
8	$3,620	$2,715	$1,458

Certain ongoing households who have previously certified for eligibility beyond Sept. 30, 2020, may not be eligible based on the adjusted income eligibility standards for fiscal year 2021 that will become effective on Oct. 1, 2020. In such case, the affected household will be issued a written notice of termination via the NAP Notice of Disposition.

Additionally, certain ongoing households may still be eligible under the adjusted income eligibility standards for fiscal year 2021; however, their benefits will have to be adjusted according to the basis of issuance of the maximum monthly benefit levels for fiscal year 2021. In such case, the affected household will be issued a written notice of reduction in benefits via the NAP Notice of Disposition.

Maximum Monthly Benefit Levels

Household Size	Saipan			Tinian			Rota and Northern Islands		
	FY 2020 Level	Effective October 1, 2020	Effective April 1, 2021	FY 2020 Level	Effective October 1, 2020	Effective April 1, 2021	FY 2020 Level	Effective October 1, 2020	Effective April 1, 2021
1	$283	$212	$154	$299	$224	$170	$344	$258	$215
2	$519	$389	$282	$546	$410	$311	$629	$472	$394
3	$743	$557	$404	$782	$587	$445	$901	$676	$564
4	$944	$708	$515	$998	$749	$568	$1,150	$863	$719
5	$1,121	$841	$609	$1,180	$885	$672	$1,360	$1,020	$851
6	$1,345	$1,009	$691	$1,417	$1,063	$763	$1,544	$1,158	$966
7	$1,487	$1,115	$810	$1,569	$1,177	$893	$1,808	$1,356	$1,131
8	$1,699	$1,274	$921	$1,785	$1,339	$1,016	$2,057	$1,543	$1,286

The NAP Notices of Disposition will be mailed to the mailing address provided by the household on file. If households are interested in knowing their status they may contact the NAP Certification Unit telephone numbers 237-2801 or 2802. ***(PR)***

Commonwealth Zoning Board Meeting

Wednesday, October 7, 2020 | 5:00 PM
Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center Building
Tel: 234-9661/2 • Fax: 234-9666
www.cnmizoning.com

AGENDA

A. Preliminary Matters
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of 09/09/2020 Zoning Board Meeting minutes
5. Public Comments (not for items to be discussed in item B. Public Hearings)

B. Public Hearings

1. **Conditional Use Application #2020-2253** – Saipan Emerald Villa proposes to occupy a pre-existing 2-storey multifamily apartment for its Bed & Breakfast establishment. This use is classified as a "Bed & Breakfast" and is permitted in the district as a conditional use. This site is located on Lot No. 045 A 128 in the village of As Matuis. This area is zoned as Village Residential.

2. **Conditional Use Application #2020-2254** – Saipan Emerald Villa proposes to occupy a pre-existing 1-storey single family dwelling for its Bed & Breakfast establishment. This use is classified as a "Bed & Breakfast" and is permitted in the district as a conditional use. This site is located on Lot No. 045 A 129 in the village of As Matuis. This area is zoned as Village Residential.

3. **Conditional Use Application #2020-2508** – Primo Farms proposes to construct a 1-storey structure for Cannabis Farm use. This use is classified as "Cannabis Farm" and is permitted in the district as a conditional use. This project is located in Lot No. 502 NEW-3-5 in the village of Capitol Hill. This area is zoned as Rural.

4. **Conditional Use Application #2020-2595** – Max Investments proposes to utilize cargo storage containers for Cannabis Farm use. This use is classified as "Cannabis Farm" and is permitted in the district as a conditional use. This project is located in Lot No. 502 NEW-3-5 in the village of Capitol Hill. This area is zoned as Rural.

5. **Conditional Use Application #2020-2660** – Marianas Hemp Farms proposes to utilize cargo storage containers for Cannabis Farm use. This use is classified as "Cannabis Farm" and is permitted in the district as a conditional use. This project is located in Lot No. 053 E 11 in the village of As Teo. This area is zoned as Rural.

6. **Conditional Use Application #2020-2538** – Tuu Group LLC proposes to construct a 2-storey building structure utilizing cargo storage containers for Cannabis Farm use. This use is classified as "Cannabis Farm" and is permitted in the district as a conditional use. This project is located in Lot No. TR 22774 in the village of As Mahetogh. This area is zoned as Rural.

C. Executive (Closed) Session

D. Miscellaneous
1. Next Meeting

E. Adjournment

In an effort to provide public access to this meeting during this pandemic, the Commonwealth Zoning Board will host this meeting via:

Zoom Video Communications
Meeting Link: https://zoom.us/j/6853007492?pwd=Q0daYlNPMDdXdFlQRTQ4UkhFRjViUT09
Meeting Code: 685 300 7492
Password: Oct07

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-20-029
TINIAN MAUI WELL II REHABILITATION PROJECT
(W17-054)

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Tinian Maui Well II Rehabilitation Project in Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The project consists, in general installation of a new pump control panel, variable frequency drive (VFD), flow meter, installation of gate valve assembly, pressure gauges, air relief valve, check valves, interior/exterior painting of the facility and other related work. The work shall be done in accordance with the Project Plans and Specifications and without disruption to the daily operation of the water system.

This project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from USEPA.

CUC requires the Project to be completed in **240 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $200.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **September 24, 2020 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-IFB-20-029, *Tinian Maui Well II Rehabilitation Project"***, to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on October 22, 2020**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. **Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.**

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The bid guarantee may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States, Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). **Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.**

All bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on September 30, 2020** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email – manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Mr. Joel Puyat, CUC Water/Wastewater Engineer – via email joel.puyat@cucgov.org and Ms. Marcela Tenorio, Procurement & Supply, Purchasing Technician – via email marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY BOYER SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2ND Floor Arrival Bldg.
PO BOX 501055 SAIPAN MP 96950
Phone: (1-670) 237-6500/1 Fax: (1-670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com
Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

NOTICE OF INVITATION FOR BID
ADVERTISING CONCESSION AT THE TINIAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
Project No.: CPA-IFB-003-20
CPA Concession No.: TAD-2020-01–02

Notice is hereby given that the Commonwealth Ports Authority (the "CPA") is accepting sealed bids, subject to the terms and conditions of the Invitation for Bid (the "IFB"), and other contract provisions, for bids from firms, companies, and/or corporations for Advertising Opportunities at the Tinian International Airport.

The IFB will be issued and available for pick-up beginning September 16, 2020, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday to Thursday, at the Administration Office, 2nd Floor, Arrival Building, Saipan International Airport. CPA offices are closed every Friday for austerity reasons and also on holidays. The IFB includes layouts and requirements. All responses to this IFB shall also take into account any and/or all costs that will be charged to the bidder awarded the contract for the project. Prospective bidders will be required to pay an administrative fee of $100.00 for costs associated with handling and consideration of the bid.

Questions and/or clarification concerning this project shall be in writing and sent to the attention of the Executive Director through email at cpa.admin@pticom.com with copy to Joy Ann DeLeon Guerrero at joydlg@cpa.gov.mp no later than September 30, 2020.

All bids shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: **"INVITATION FOR BID SUBMISSION: CONFIDENTIAL, ADVERTISING OPPORTUNITIES, COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY CPA-IFB-003-20."** One (1) original and two (2) copies of the bid must be submitted no later than 2:00 p.m. Chamorro Standard Time, October 20, 2020, to the Authority Administration Section, Office of the Executive Director, 2nd Floor, Arrival Building, Saipan International Airport.

Bids will be opened on October 20, 2020, at 3:00p.m. at the Conference Room, 2nd Floor, Departure Building, Saipan International Airport. Bids are not required to include a prepaid minimum concession fee. The concessions are for the right to advertise at certain designated locations within the Tinian International Airport for a period of two (2) years and requires the concessionaire to operate such concession to the satisfaction of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so, would be in CPA's best interest. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest. All bids shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

Best disinformation defense? You

Deploying disinformation as well as other asymmetric tactics, Russia attacked America's 2016 election. "Russia's goals were to undermine public faith in the U.S. democratic process, denigrate Secretary (Hillary) Clinton, and harm her electability and potential presidency. We further assess (Russian President Vladimir) Putin and the Russian Government developed a clear preference for President-elect Trump," according to a 2017 report from the director of national intelligence.

In 2020, Russians have returned. And they've got company: China, which the National Counterintelligence and Security Center believes prefers Joe Biden, and Iran are also trying to degrade our democracy. "Foreign states will continue to use covert and overt influence measures in their attempts to sway U.S. voters' preferences and perspectives, shift U.S. policies, increase discord in the United States, and undermine the American people's confidence in our democratic process," according to an NCSC statement. With these three nations "all seeking greater influence online, the dynamic somewhat resembles a Cold War arms race, but with information rather than missiles as the weapon," Sarah Kreps, a Brookings Institution senior fellow, wrote in an analysis. "Whether the United States has learned how to guard against these weapons, and their evolving use, remains far from clear."

Part of the guard is government, which has mostly focused on preventing an election hack. But less has been done to blunt the insidious internet meddling from foreign forces or even deliberate disinformation from homegrown groups. Sure, some social media companies have mitigated the impact. Facebook, for instance, announced Sept. 24 that it was taking down three disinformation networks with ties to Russia's military and intelligence agencies. But for the most part, social media sites have reacted after the damage is done.

Since these institutions can't do it alone, individuals are the best line of disinformation defense. But unfortunately, it turns out that we're not always that good at it. That's the conclusion from a study by the Reboot Foundation that states, "People are overconfident about their media literacy skills, and they believe that they have more skills than they actually do. For all age groups, determining the reliability of websites is problematic." Especially social media. Even among moderate and light users, "the more time spent on social media, the worse the user's news judgment."

So sound judgment on media choice is important in imparting facts. What works best? According to the Pew Research Center, which ranked respondents on correct answers to 29 fact-based questions, the highest political knowledge is seen by those who "use a news website or app as the most common way" to get political and election news. That figure, at 45% "high political knowledge" and 31% "middle political knowledge," is followed by radio (42% high/34% middle), print (41%/29%), cable TV (35%/29%), network TV (29%/35%), social media (17%/27%) and local TV (10%/21%).

Emphasizing professionally produced news (even delivered via social media) isn't self-serving but democracy preserving, as Americans need to be on guard that they don't advance adversaries' attacks on the 2020 election.

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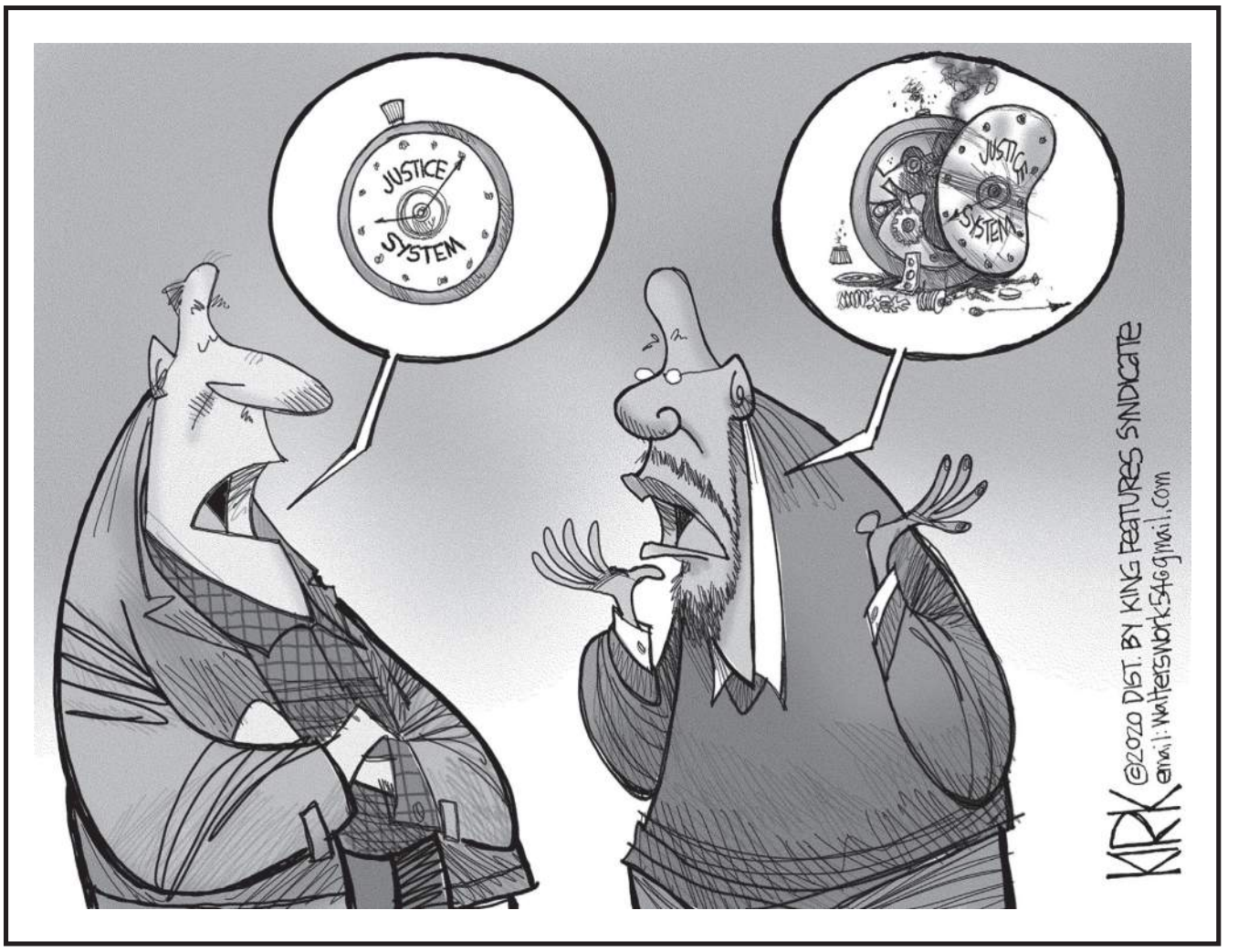

America's Pacific island partnerships preserve peace, progress

Editor's Note: Originally published in The Daily Signal *on Sept. 24, 2020*

By DOUGLAS W. DOMENECH
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Douglas W. Domenech is Interior's Assistant Secretary for Insular and International Affairs. For more about Interior's Office of Insular Affairs, visit www.doi.gov/oia, follow @ASIIADomenech, or like OIA on Facebook.

The freely associated states in the Pacific Ocean aren't well known to many Americans, but President Donald Trump and his administration continue to provide unprecedented focus and support to these allies to help preserve their peace and prosperity in the face of China's growing interests in the region.

Instead of debt diplomacy, the Trump administration wholeheartedly backs the democratic independence of the freely associated states, which include the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau. At the same time, the administration provides critical aid in health care, education, and infrastructure for their citizens.

The Trump administration has taken historic and extraordinary actions to demonstrate the U.S. relationship with and commitment to each of these nations—more than any previous administration since World War II.

No previous American president has met together with the presidents of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Marshall Islands, and Palau, as Trump did last year in the Oval Office.

Although these Pacific island nations have been strategically vital to the United States since 1947, even before they had become independent, no U.S. president had invited their heads of state to the White House for a joint meeting.

By holding such a historic meeting, Trump underscored his commitment to these nations and their people while highlighting his focus on a free and open Indo-Pacific region.

The president's vision of American national interest and security is shaped by what he sees when he looks west beyond our Pacific shores to Americans living in the three Pacific U.S. territories of American Samoa, Guam, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, juxtaposed with an increasingly aggressive communist China.

Secretary of State Michael Pompeo and Veterans Affairs Secretary Robert Wilkie have visited the region in person.

Defense Secretary Mark Esper visited Palau in August, the first defense secretary to do so. He is the fourth Cabinet member to visit the region and the third to visit the freely associated states in the last year or so.

At last year's Pacific Islands Forum Partners Dialogue in Tuvalu, Interior Secretary David Bernhardt assured friends and would-be adversaries: "The United States is a Pacific nation, and our country has a deep and longstanding commitment to the future security, prosperity, and wellbeing of the region."

America's historic ties to the Pacific were forged in World War II, when over 110,000 Americans died and another 250,000 were wounded defeating Japan. Americans in Guam and the Philippines suffered atrocities under a foreign invasion of U.S. soil during the war.

Seventy-five years ago, the U.S. was present on hundreds of islands in the Pacific across a 3 million-square-mile region known as Micronesia, comparable in size to the continental United States. Under a 1947 "trusteeship agreement" with the United Nations, the U.S. agreed to promote social, economic, and political freedom and development in these islands.

Between 1986 and 1994, the freely associated states emerged as sovereign, independent nations following democratic elections. President Ronald Reagan sent congratulations in 1986, noting, "You'll always be family to us."

In that perspective as "family," Trump has sent millions of dollars in assistance to U.S. territories and the freely associated states to help prepare for and respond to the coronavirus pandemic and its impact. Such funding has purchased testing materials and personal protective equipment and helped prepare health care facilities.

For the past 35 years, the United States has maintained a close political, economic, and mutual-defense alliance with these three Pacific island nations under a Compact of Free Association—with certain provisions scheduled to expire in 2023 for the Federated States of Micronesia and the Marshall Islands, and in 2024 for Palau.

Renewing the expiring provisions and strengthening these

See AMERICA'S on Next Page

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Sablan's inaccurate record on food stamp funding

By RALPH DLG TORRES
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Ralph DLG Torres is governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The CNMI is facing a change in eligibility and a reduction in benefits due to inaction by Congress to provide the necessary funding to maintain current income eligibility and benefit levels. Funding for the Nutrition Assistance Program is determined only by the U.S. Congress. The need for additional funding to support current eligibility and benefits has been on Congressman Sablan's table for several years now. The CNMI NAP, my administration, and the USDA Food and Nutritional Service have been providing data to our congressman's office related to the funding needs. The administration has requested updates on actions related to securing the funding necessary, without response. The congressional office also received responses to letters of inquiry that it has sent, which included detailed information about NAP food assistance needs.

Congressman Sablan makes claims he has "won $204,336,563" in funding for the Nutrition Assistance Program since 2009. This is a false claim. Sablan has created a chart that shows funding he has supposedly "won" for the CNMI NAP since 2009. The CNMI gets a block grant from the USDA FNS. This is a basic amount of funding granted to the CNMI annually by the FNS that is, in effect, automatic and requires no effort by our congressman. Congressman Sablan does have the ability to work on seeing an increase to this block grant funding, which he claims he was responsible for back in 2009, bringing the block grant funding up from $10.7 million to $12.1 million, a far cry from the resources the CNMI actually needed and now needs to address benefits. The block grant is provided annually to the CNMI with or without Sablan. His claim of credit for this annual block grant is absolutely misleading. For 11 straight years, the CNMI has seen no increase in its block grant funding for food assistance.

Congressman Sablan might take some credit for the minimal increase in the block grant 11 years ago, as well as funding in the Agricultural Bill of 2016 that provided $30 million to increase temporarily income eligibility and benefits, and possibly a portion of the disaster funding that has come over the last year amounting to about $27 million, but that $60 million in additional funding for food assistance over the course of 11 years that might be attributable to Sablan is not the $204 million he inaccurately makes claim to, and does not allow the NAP to maintain current benefit levels.

There have been many opportunities for Congressman Sablan to avert the mandated reduction to income eligibility and benefits that begins Oct. 1, 2020. It was expected that in the Agricultural Bill that was signed into law in 2018, Sablan would have seen language to transition the CNMI NAP to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP. This would have ensured that the CNMI received ample funding to cover its food assistance needs and maintain current benefits. This was not done. Congressman Sablan has had several years to see congressional action to increase the CNMI's block grant, so that it could sustain the current benefit levels. This was not done. The administration, NAP, and the FNS have worked with Sablan's office to provide all of the information necessary to informing the congressional action that is necessary to meet CNMI needs. We have been provided with no updates, no information on what efforts he was making, and his only seeming response has been to produce press releases that have not specified his efforts.

One needs only contrast the food assistance benefits received by the island of Guam to understand how ineffective our congressional office has been. Guam receives around $110 million in food assistance benefits. The regular annual food assistance benefits granted the CNMI is $12 million. Even though our population is one-third the size of Guam's, they are getting nearly 10 times as much food assistance funding.

The congressman can message, misinform, and create charts as he wants. These do not see the congressional action necessary to appropriately fund the CNMI's food assistance program. That will require that he work with Congress to see annual funding needs necessary to support the current eligibility and benefit levels is provided to the CNMI. Anything short of that is a failure of duty.

Just get it done, get the resources the people of the CNMI need, and stop sending me letters until you do.

Fiscal Year	Amount	Purpose
2009	$1.45 million	Increase to block grant
2010	-	
2011	-	
2012	$1 million	Stop-Gap funding
2013	-	
2014	-	
2015	-	
2016	$32.5 million	Farm Bill funding
2017	-	
2018	-	
2019	$25.2 million	Disaster Relief funding
2020	$1.86 million	Cares Act funding
Total Funding	**$62 million**	(Approximate to only 3 years of benefits at current levels)

Pandemic pastime is no fun for fish

By PAULA MOORE
People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals

Paula Moore is a senior writer for the PETA Foundation, 501 Front St., Norfolk, VA 23510; www.PETA.org.

Tired of being stuck at home and unable to attend live sporting and other events, some Americans are getting hooked on a new hobby: fishing. Sales of fishing licenses and gear have spiked as the novel coronavirus drags on, and a recent survey found that one in five people say they are more likely to go fishing now than they were before the pandemic started.

This may be welcome news for sporting goods stores, but it's no reason to cheer. Fish are highly intelligent, self-aware animals who can feel pain, and disregarding their suffering just because we're bored and want a diversion is speciesism at its worst.

In a study published in the journal Animal Cognition, biologist Culum Brown, an associate professor at Macquarie University in Sydney, Australia, presented evidence that fish have excellent long-term memories, can use tools, live in complex social groups, cooperate with and learn from one another, and even develop cultural traditions.

Fish form emotional attachments and become depressed when they lose their mates. They can count and tell time, think ahead and vocally communicate with one another. Catfish warn each other about predators by making squeaking sounds (which we can hear only with special equipment). Pearlfish use oyster shells as speakers to help amplify the volume of their messages.

Fish play and have been observed riding bubble streams for fun, rearranging the plants and toys in their dull aquariums and even playing ball.

As PETA President Ingrid Newkirk writes in her new book, "Animalkind," fish _ like apes and orcas _ can also recognize themselves in a mirror, a classic test of self-awareness. Researchers from Osaka City University in Japan recorded tiny cleaner wrasses, a type of coral reef fish, attempting to scrape off marks that had been placed on their throats or heads while they looked at their own reflections.

One of the most persistent and specious myths about fish is that they can't feel pain _ and, therefore, that it's not cruel to catch them with hooks and let them suffocate on land. But they do, just as other vertebrates do. Dr. Brown argues that "it would be impossible for fish to survive as the cognitively and behaviorally complex animals they are without a capacity to feel pain."

Fish have neurons called nociceptors that detect potential harm, and like mammals, they produce opioids that relieve suffering. Why would they need to do that if they didn't feel pain? When fish are exposed to painful stimuli, regions of their brain crucial for conscious sensory perceptions "light up," and they show signs of fear and wariness. Watching fish struggle and gasp for breath after yanking them out of their underwater homes should be all the evidence anglers need that they're in distress.

Fortunately, pandemic participants aside, many anglers are starting to have second thoughts about their pastime. Science writer David Quammen has said, "I've had more and more trouble with catch-and-release fishing as time goes on ... . I've concluded that it's speciesist to tell ourselves that it's a game to the fish. It's deadly mortal serious to them. These animals were hysterically fighting for survival."

Eventually, this pandemic will end and hopefully our lives will go back to some semblance of normalcy. But the new normal shouldn't include perpetuating archaic attitudes about our fellow animals. Fish are sentient beings who deserve to live free from unnecessary pain and suffering. The very least we can do is stop causing them harm for "fun."

AMERICA'S

From Page 8

compact agreements are key to Trump's Indo-Pacific strategy, and the process is underway to conclude negotiations as soon as possible.

Fortunately, two of the three freely associated states—Palau and the Marshall Islands—diplomatically recognize Taiwan instead of China, and Taiwan has helped ensure they have access to health support and financial assistance during the coronavirus pandemic.

Taiwan also contributes to the Compact Trust Fund for the Marshall Islands in a strong show of solidarity for that nation's sovereignty in partnership with the United States.

However, China continues to pressure Taiwan's diplomatic allies to abandon their democratic partnerships in Taipei. Beijing attempts to use government-controlled businesses to infiltrate and exert economic and political influence in the freely associated states and elsewhere, through predatory lending and foreign interference in their democratic processes.

Pompeo recently repudiated Beijing's illegal maritime claims in the South China Sea, noting that the communist regime's "predatory worldview has no place in the 21st century." Pompeo also stated that Reagan's advice to "trust but verify" should now be "distrust and verify" when it comes to China.

Although island leaders welcome investment, they assuredly must be aware of Beijing's record on the rights of indigenous peoples once China gets control. Individuals around the world are also aware of the harsh religious persecution that the Chinese face within their own borders.

Palau is well aware, having partnered with the U.S. to provide a safe haven to several Uighur Muslims. Americans join their brothers and sisters in the Pacific in praying for Christians, Uighur Muslims, and others in China. We cannot turn a blind eye to the severe persecution that our brothers and sisters suffer daily at the hands of the Chinese Communist Party's brutal war on religion.

This unique model of successful partnership and free association in the Pacific was best expressed in the communique from Trump and the three heads of state after their Oval Office visit, which said they agreed to jointly reaffirm our interest in a free, open, and prosperous Indo-Pacific region. We recognize our unique, historic, and special relationships, and reaffirm our countries' commitments to the Compacts of Free Association, resolving to continue our close cooperation in support of prosperity, security, and the rule of law.

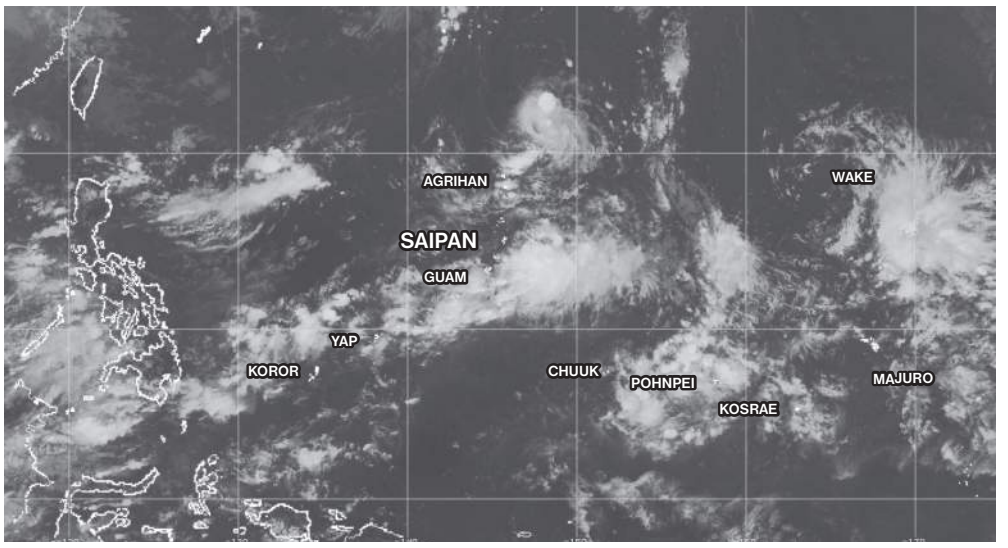
That is the president's vision of American success and commitment to our friends in the Pacific.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Mostly cloudy with scattered locally heavy showers and isolated thunderstorms. West winds 5 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with scattered locally heavy showers and isolated thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with scattered locally heavy showers and isolated thunderstorms.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.
87° 77°	87° 77°	87° 77°	87° 77°	87° 77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 8:55 AM, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2020

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Doppler weather radar shows scattered showers south and east of Guam, with isolated showers over the rest of the Marianas zones. The buoys reveal combined seas of 2 to 4 feet, composed mainly of a northeast swell, a north-northwest swell, and south-southwest wind waves.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA	▲ ▼ °F	
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	87° / 79°
Palau	Partly Cloudy	86° / 78°
Yap	Partly Cloudy	87° / 80°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	87° / 80°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	86° / 78°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	86° / 78°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	86° / 81°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:06 AM	6:07 PM
Thursday	6:06 AM	6:06 PM
Friday	6:06 AM	6:05 PM
Saturday	6:06 AM	6:04 PM
Sunday	6:07 AM	6:04 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	4:36 AM	5:20 PM
Thursday	-	5:24 AM	5:56 PM
Friday	-	6:11 AM	6:31 PM
Saturday	-	6:57 AM	7:06 PM
Sunday	-	7:43 AM	7:42 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE	▲ ▼ °F	
Auckland	Showers	61° / 54°
Beijing	Sunny	82° / 54°
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	90° / 81°
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	87° / 75°
London	Showers	64° / 46°
Los Angeles	Showers	74° / 60°
Manila	Thunderstorms	88° / 79°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	66° / 52°
Miami	Mostly Sunny	87° / 79°
New York	Partly Cloudy	83° / 65°
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	82° / 70°
Paris	Partly Cloudy	64° / 46°
Busan	Mostly Sunny	79° / 66°
Rome	Sunny	73° / 54°
Salem	Thunderstorms	89° / 68°
San Francisco	Sunny	64° / 53°
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	81° / 59°
Tokyo	Showers	77° / 66°
Washington, DC	Sunny	86° / 66°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
1:05 AM	LOW TIDE	0.77
6:27 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.71
1:02 PM	LOW TIDE	0.23
7:24 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.81

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
- ❏ Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
- ❏ Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are available, use an alcohol-based sanitizer.
- ❏ Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- ❏ Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mpand, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2020

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	7:30am	8:10am	1, 4
UA117	7:50am	8:30am	6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	7:30am	9:10pm	1 via Guam

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

UA183	7:25pm	9:10pm	1 via Guam
UA183	9:05pm	10:50pm	5 via Guam

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	5:50am	6:31am	1, 4
UA174	6:15am	6:56am	6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA184/174	11:45pm	6:56am+1	5 via Guam

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

UA184	10:25pm	4:25am+1	1 via Guam
UA184	11:45pm	5:33am+1	5 via Guam

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301.2	8:30AM	9:00AM	Tues/Fri
1303	3:30PM	4:00PM	Tues/Fri

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101.2	9:30AM	10:00AM	Tues/Fri
3103	4:30PM	5:00PM	Tues/Fri

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1205	11:00	11:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1208	14:00	14:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1212	18:00	18:15	Temporarily Unavailable

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2105	11:30	11:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2108	14:30	14:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable

Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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ADVERTISING SUPPLEMENT
30 SEPTEMBER 2020

Raising a child for first-time parents

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Becoming a parent does not come with instructions or a manual. From expecting a child and to rearing one, this journey can be overwhelming, frustrating, tiring, and fulfilling all at the same time. Many parents say that having their first child is one of the best moments in their life and the journey may not be perfect but experience teaches them to be the best that they can be.

Sasha Zandueta of Chalan Lau Lau recalls being a first-time parent to a boy who is now 5 years old. "To be honest, my husband and I were not really prepared for parenthood but, as soon as our baby was born, our 'parental instinct' began to come out naturally. …We were both so excited and happy to meet our first baby boy and we couldn't stop staring at him , holding him and feeling such immense joy," she said.

"My husband and I did not talk much about playing roles but we did our parts and one example is the husband would do laundry while I stay at home and take care of the baby. …There were many challenges we had to face becoming new parents, which meant we were on our own now as a family and my husband and I teamed up on responsibilities and we learned not to do things on our own but work together for our family," she added.

Sasha Zandueta, shown here with her family, said that parental instincts come naturally after your first child is born.

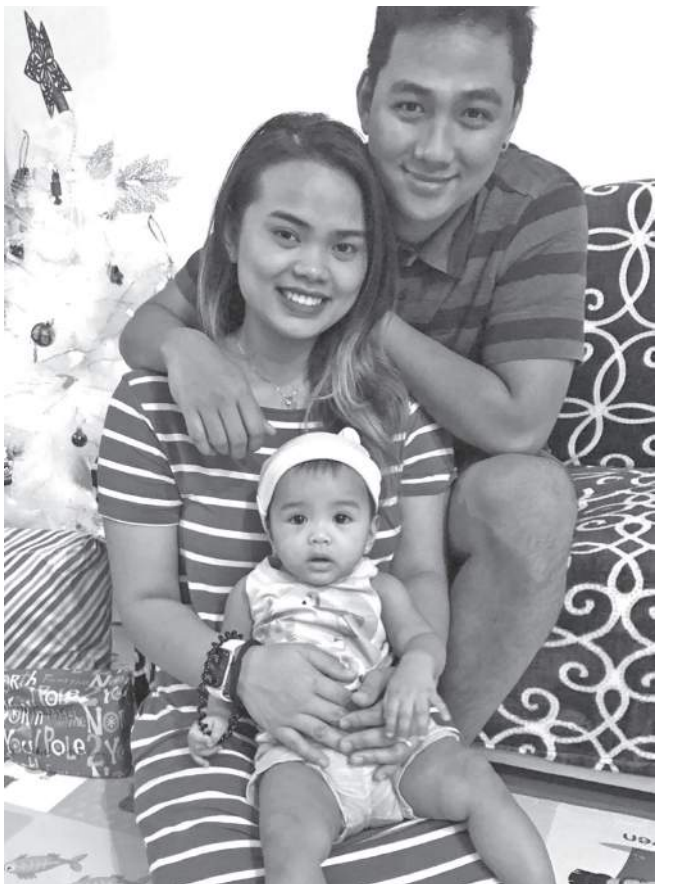
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Experience taught Zandueta that first-time parents should always be there for each other. "Split the responsibilities…help one another… accept the responsibilities and make adjustments. …There are moments when mothers go through 'post-partum depression' with their first child and my advice to all the fathers is to be there to help ease the situation and realize that new mothers are not overreacting in these moments. …Be a team and work things out."

Zandueta said that her son and husband inspire her to keep going. "…We started our life together pretty young and, with a son, our life is pretty much a handful but we are moving forward every single day. …Just to see our son grow is very rewarding. …Seeing my family together and happy pushes me to be a better version of myself despite going through PPD. … My husband inspires me to never give up," she added.

Alisa Baquilles of Gualo Rai said she and her husband cried tears of joy when they saw their baby girl for the first time 14 months ago. "We were both so happy, thankful, and blessed. …Just like many parents, we did not really appoint who will do specific tasks. It just happened and parenthood will push you that way but in a good way," she said. "Breastfeeding was a challenge at first and I still do this until today. I thank God for being able to provide 'liquid gold' for my little one."

She said their daughter keeps them going through many challenges. "Giving up is not an option, especially if you are new parents. Always pray and do not forget to take care of yourself for your family," she added.



Alisa Baquilles with her family said tears of joy overwhelmed her after seeing her baby and holding her baby for the first time.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Parents like **Kristine Galang** and her husband from Chinatown did a lot of research when they were expecting their first baby girl 15 months ago. "We read a lot and talked to other 'first-time' parents. We were scared and nervous but the moment we saw her, it was pure joy and love. …I have always loved babies but knowing that this baby is mine, the feeling is just amazing,' she said

"Every day, my husband and I inspire each other. Life can be challenging but we are a team. Both of our mothers would give us advice and help guide us. I am learning every day as I also talk to other first-time mothers and listening to their experiences is enlightening," she added.

Galang echoes what other new parents also go through—that the transition to parenthood can sometimes be overwhelming. "Aside from the lack of sleep and worry if what I am doing and decisions that I call are right, breastfeeding was my biggest challenge. …I was not producing enough and I beat myself up thinking I have failed my baby. …When my baby reached 4 months [old], I finally let go and accepted [that] it is not about me. I did what I could and supplementing her with formula is not bad as my baby now is happy, healthy, and growing," she said.

"My advice to new parents is [to] learn as you go. Not all babies are the same and only you know your child and what is best for them. Communication is key to my husband and me. …Be open to one another and never be afraid or ashamed to ask for help when needed," she added.

Kristine Galang said she and her husband not only sought advice from family and friends about parenthood but also read books and did research.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Healthy parenting during a pandemic

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

As early as January, when the CNMI government first had an inkling of the COVID-19 outbreak, everybody knew that life was never going to be the same for everyone, especially for parents who are trying to create a healthy work and life balance. Today, with the pandemic very much in the picture and added to the daily equation, how do parents help their children cope with the restrictions, yet still have the kind of childhood that they want their children to have?

Carmen Hasselback of San Vicente said that good communication is an effective way to keep the bond with her 8-year-old son. "Explaining anything to an 8-year-old is challenging because you have to speak in a way that your message is conveyed clearly but making sure you don't use words that are too big or too small for that age group to understand. With our son, explaining what COVID-19 is and why we need to wear a mask almost all of the time and why he can't have 'play dates' was tricky and so we capitalized on his caring nature, letting him know that wearing a mask protects his friends from getting sick," she said.

"It is important to also talk to your children about their mental and emotional health. We consistently ask our son how he is feeling and even exploring the option of talking to a therapist if he wants to. We try to do more family-oriented activities and make sure he is included in some decision-making, especially when it involves him. Finally, our family strongly believes that open communication makes any challenging situation lighter and an opportunity to learn and self-improve," she added.

Leith Poole immediately thought how he and his wife could help their children adjust to a long break from school and then again adjusting to school days filled with government restrictions. "… Parents should realize that there will be an adjustment period when returning to school," he said. The couple have three boys who all go to Brilliant Star Montessori. They initially returned to school full time until the government closed all private schools after one week of instruction. They have since returned to school for over three weeks since the last order was lifted and have face to face classes with other students and teachers. "My wife and I have discussed identifying emotions, letting the boys express themselves and talk about how they feel going back to school. This has been cool to witness, especially with Evan, our 6-year-old. We realized that letting them talk and listening to them intently are vital tools during this challenging times," he added.

Poole said that his children initially had a hard time adding the wearing of face masks to their daily routine. "…But they adapted quickly as they

Continued on Next Page

Carmen and George Hasselback make sure that their line of communication with their son is clear and honest.
BEA CABRERA

Leith Poole, shown here with his family, said that living in nearly COVID-19-free Saipan is the best place for rearing their children.
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saw their friends wear them and pick out cool designs together. …Their grandma sent some different ones from the [U.S.] mainland, which they liked. I feel fortunate our boys returned to school, learning, and having recess with the protocols of COVID-19 in place in the classroom. I believe most of the students have adjusted after a few weeks. …Children crave the interaction and they need it," he added.

Poole admits that trying to keep one's perspective is challenging but it can de done. "…Remain positive through thick and thin and this is what I want to pass along to our children. I never realized until becoming a parent that it is true what they say—'Children are smarter that most people give them credit for.' [They are] awfully resilient, they adapt and adjust more easily than many adults," he said.

"…Living on Saipan, we are lucky to be nearly COVID-19-free and that has led to an amazing childhood for these island boys, even during lockdown and after," he added.

Kimiko and Steve McKagan make sure that their daughter has both quality time at home and outdoors. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Being an athlete and married to an environmentalist, **Kimiko McKagan** encourages her daughter to enjoy the great outdoors while also spending quality time at home, bonding with mom and dad. "We try to keep our daughter, Mika, get used to a routine starting when she was much younger. So even before COVID-19, she is pretty well-adjusted with her surroundings and now, we try to make her socialize with many friends from different ages in accordance with COVID-19 safety and health protocols," she said.

"Our routine when outside includes swimming, hiking, and scootering. Going to Pau Pau Beach and Capitol Hill are her favorites because it is like a big playground for her. At home, we make her finish her homework, let her help us with easy chores and we play music in the house all the time as Mika loves singing and dancing," she added.

Not sugar coating what reality is like is what **Michelle** and her husband**, Charlie Atalig,** are going for. "When

See HEALTHY on Next Page

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Living with children: The realities of teens and smart phones

By JOHN ROSEMOND
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

A mother in California seeks her pastor's opinion on allowing her 15-year-old son to have a smart phone. The boy claims that if he can't use social media, he will have no friends. Mom is skeptical concerning the claim and afraid of other Internet experiences the youngster might be drawn to if he has a smart phone.

The pastor tells Mom that her son needs to learn to navigate the realities of the Internet and learn to use a smart phone responsibly before he goes off to college. Three years! The Doomsday Clock is ticking!

"Help me out here," Mom asks me.

With all due respect for the pastor, here is the short list of "realities" concerning smart phones and teenagers:

REALITY: Smart phone use by teens coincides with a dramatic increase in adolescent mental health problems including depression, anxiety and suicide.

REALITY: The addictive element of smart phone use has been verified by several researchers and supported by a preponderance of anecdotal evidence.

REALITY: Teenage boys are notorious for using smart phones and other screen-based devices to access pornography.

REALITY: Teens quickly learn to circumvent smart phone controls installed by their parents. Don't kid yourself.

REALITY: Teen girls often employ social media to construct alternative identities and personal soap operas that are destructive to proper socialization and adjustment.

REALITY: There is no compelling evidence to the effect that teens without smart phones are at some form of risk – socially, emotionally, cognitively. In fact, the term "responsible smart phone use by a teenager" is not an oxymoron only because a small minority of teens do happen to use smart phones in a completely responsible manner. Repeat, a small minority.

REALITY: I am personally acquainted with teenagers who do not have smart phones or tablets. Said teens are, without exception, personable, well-adjusted, happy and have plenty of friends. In short, they are normal. The idea that an otherwise well-adjusted teen is going to have no friends if he doesn't have a smart phone is propaganda.

REALITY: Many of the teens I have met who have smart phones do not act like normal human beings. They don't converse, for example. They mumble. They don't look people in the eye. They have their smart phones in their hands at almost all times like they are part of their bodies. While one attempts to engage them in conversation, they are snatching looks at their devices and even texting.

REALITY: Over the last 10 years, hundreds of parents have shared horror stories of well-adjusted, trustworthy kids who, a year or so after obtaining smart phones, were no longer trustworthy and in many cases had developed significant mental health and behavioral issues.

You think you can throw the dice and roll snake eyes? Best of luck to you.

Visit family psychologist John Rosemond's website at www.johnrosemond.com; readers may send him email at questions@rosemond.com; due to the volume of mail, not every question will be answered.

Michelle and Charlie Atalig believe that, in order to be the best parents, you have to be your best selves first. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

HEALTHY

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COVID-19 began, Charlie and I had an honest conversation with our children. We explained what we knew about the virus at that time, how serious it was and why we needed to stay at home. They understood and were actually very happy to stay at home," she said. "The experience was very positive for them and I believe it was because we did everything we could to ensure they were comfortable, with lots of time for learning, play, snacking, eating, and rest."

The Ataligs also took time to explore the island and maximize activities with their children. "Having to isolate in the Marianas is the best place, in my opinion. When COVID-19 restrictions began, we took advantage of our parks and beaches. We made it a regular thing to go for a run, walk, swim, fly kites, fish, and enjoy other outdoor activities. It was a great way to bond, de-stress and stay active," she said.

"I believe that to be the best parent for my children, I too need to be at my best. Finding strategies to de-stress, whether it is reading a book or listening to a podcast, running, or doing yoga, squeezing in a nap, or stepping outside for fresh air were all healthy ways for me to keep a clear head. Undoubtedly, the pandemic, remote learning, and working from home all at the same time is a lot. It is manageable because of the structure we set at home," she added.

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Teachers get real about their new normal: Remote teaching

By BEA CABRERA
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CORRESPONDENT

CNMI teachers and educators found themselves faced by a different challenge this school year—remote teaching while also making sure to sustain student learning. That new normal in the time of the COVID-19 pandemic had many teachers scrambling to teach themselves the ins and out of internet technology and execute effective and creative ways to teach their students online. Weeks after classes started, the process is still not easy, with both teachers and students still getting accustomed to their new classrooms and their new teaching aide called "technology."

Dan Wollak, a teacher at Marianas High School, appreciates that students have been very understanding of the situation. "Teaching online has been extremely challenging but students have been very understanding and teachers are trying to do the best they can despite the difficult circumstances. Over the month of August, the Public School System Distance Education team taught the rest of PSS teachers how to use the online learning platform Blackboard and my teacher, who happens to be my wife, Ferleen, did an awesome job of thoroughly teaching me the platform and helping me get comfortable with the features," he said.

"My first day teaching an online class was the most nervous I have ever been as a teacher." He described it as a "different feeling" compared to standing in front of a physical class and introducing yourself on the first day. "With each day I have become more comfortable with it and my students have as well," he added.

Wollak admits that reaching every student virtually has many ups and downs. "…To this day, many of my students don't want to turn on their cameras or their audio. Sometimes, I will ask a question that they are supposed to respond to and some of my students who are logged on don't respond at all, which tells me they are online but not paying attention," he said. "Another difficulty is the fact that the first couple of weeks we weren't teaching our subject area but focusing on social and emotional learning. Not only are we trying to get comfortable with online teaching but we are teaching a subject area that is not our primary content."

"The biggest challenge is for our students who do not have laptops or tablets or don't have internet. We were able to check out laptops for students but our supply ran out quickly. …Students without internet are getting paper packets for their curriculum, while they wait on receiving WiFi's. I worry that learning from a packet isn't nearly as effective as taking an actual class," he added.

Despite all this, Wollak believes in the power of the community. "We will get through this but we need everyone's support to make meaningful learning possible. One way is to donate your old electronics to those in need. Second, open up your homes to your children's friends without internet and, third, check on your children and make sure they are engaged in their classes," he said.

"Be supportive of us teachers as we navigate these new waters, trying to make learning as meaningful as possible. I look forward to the day I get to see my students face-to-face again. The last time I taught my students in person was on March 13. I know this because this was also the last time I shaved. I will shave again when we resume face to face instruction," he added.

Rhonda Gross, a teacher at San Vicente Elementary School, said she and other teachers are concerned about the welfare of their students under the new system of remote teaching and learning. "…We think about the quality and fidelity of our students' education, especially the lack of physical interaction in the elementary level, so we try our best to make it effective as possible. We make ourselves always accessible for both parents and students as we have been meeting and preparing bi-weekly remote learning packets for our students," she said. "The LP's were distributed physically and digitally. …During the orientation, teachers welcomed families to the new school year and informed them of what to expect moving forward. We are in constant communication with families via phone or email. This way, our students have continued education," she added.

Gross said her current challenge is reaching parents whose child's registration is not completed yet. "Parents and the community can help by getting in touch with the schools, always check for updates on the Facebook page of their child's schools and, please, do not hesitate to communicate with your child's teacher. We thank the parents for taking time out of their busy schedules to get oriented and bringing their child to take their STAR assessments, which is important.

"Parents should know that submitting their child's learning packets is important and the LP No. 2 is due on Oct. 5," she added.

Adam Walsh, a professor at the Northern Marianas College, said that education should never stop despite the pandemic. "Technology is great as it has done so much for us over the last decade or more in education to prepare our youth for the future and how tech continues to adapt, evolve, and proliferate in many job fields and other opportunities. …Due to technological advancements in video conferencing, Learning Management Systems (like Moodle and Blackboard), and other virtual environment features allow educators to reach students efficiently and effectively. We are lucky to have the infrastructure on such a remote place as the CNMI to conduct online learning for 10,000+ public, private, and college-level student body."

He concedes, though, that "just because we are lucky in this regard doesn't mean everything is okay or simply fine. We are all not fine." Walsh said it would be ignorant to think that families on the islands can manage the struggles this pandemic has caused: massive unemployment, lack of resources, inequity, and so much more.

"We aren't alone in this struggle as the U.S. mainland and other areas continue to feel the full force of lockdowns, increased COVID-19 case numbers, hospitalizations, deaths, and the aftermath of having to deal with all of these things on a daily basis.

"We also forget that learning is as much social as it is intellectual. I am at my best in a classroom, walking around to different groups during a discussion, interacting with the technologies available but, most importantly, being there physically for my students. We can't replace what it means to be human with a computer screen or smartphone and we shouldn't. We should, however, understand these limitations and do our best to work together and that is how we get through this dark time. Empathy today will build a better community tomorrow, and tomorrow is all we have," he added.

Ajani Burrell, a teacher at the Northern Marianas College, said the primary challenge of teaching remotely is to look for ways to keep students engaged "particularly when they're working asynchronously. I suspect this is a challenge for teachers across all levels of education. Given the remote dynamic, it also difficult at times to gauge students' understanding or solicit feedback from them. Of course, the third challenge is access to the technology that makes remote learning possible, and the space/environment to allow for productive learning."

At a virtual meeting early this month, Dr. Bobby Cruz, Public School System Instructional Technology director said that remote teaching and learning are the only way to go for student's continued education at this time of the pandemic, particularly since the students' education, safety, and wellbeing are the priority.

"That is why the primary method that we will use is remote learning. …Remote learning provides an opportunity for students and teachers to stay connected and engaged while working in different locations," he said.

"This was not an easy shift. …I was actually fearful that it will not take off but the four weeks of training have been positive. …If you personally know our teachers, please commend them. Our classroom teachers have done an extraordinary job of using the 'why' they serve as educational professionals to help them overcome the many hurdles that accompany this shift to remote learning."

VOX POPULI

Memorable advice I got from my parents

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

It may have started with "Eat your vegetables," "Do not talk when your mouth is full," "Love your neighbors" or "Do not drink from the milk carton" but, even as adults, our parents' admonitions and advice still ring in our ears when confronted with a situation. Whether you need it or not, we will always hear their voices in our heads.

"My parents taught me and my brother not only through words or reminders but also by how they live their lives. They are always loving, respectful, and committed to family, friends, neighbors and spend time with community work. Now that we are adults, they always tell us how proud they are and what we have done for other people. This is the motivation that I use in my every day life"

—Kara Manglona, Chalan Kanoa

"I was brought up by a single parent, my mother, and the best advice she ever gave me is never to be shy. She would always say, 'Why will you be shy when God gave you all the skills to be the best person you can be on this earth?' I did not really came out of my shell until 9th grade when I was understanding slowly what she meant. I started joining school clubs, talking to new students and making new friends and started playing sports. Now that I am an adult, not being shy helped me improve many skills and landed me in different jobs that entail talking to strangers."

—Jen Santos, Gualo Rai

"A memorable advice from my parents growing up and something that I follow today is to trust my instincts. Whenever I am in doubt or second-guessing a decision, I remember my parents: 'Listen to that voice inside you, that's instinct.' It may not give you the right solutions every time but it is probably the right thing during that particular time"

—Joe San Nicolas, Koblerville

"My parents always taught me to have a positive outlook in life. When I was not accepted in the university I wanted, when my team lost or when I did not get the job I was hoping for, my parents would always tell me to look on the bright side of things. 'If a door closes, a window opens.' I always think about that when I am down hearted"

— Jeremy Cruz, Susupe

"The memorable advice I got from my parents was about keeping relationships: 'Family First.' My parents have been married for 40 years and they have gone through a lot—losing our family business, our house getting destroyed because of Super Typhoon Yutu—but they have remained strong and loving. I will always respect having such caring and loving parents and I hope to be like them when I have my own family"

—Nadine Camacho, San Vicente

"'Always make you bed before you head out of your room.' My mom especially would say this and when I was a kid she would make sure my bed was in order before I leave for school. The reason she says is that if your bed is arranged and organized, then that means your day will go smoothly too. She was superstitious but I have carried that habit and, yes, it's true, making your bed makes your mind working and ready for anything."

—Rob Aguon, Kagman

"Choose the right people for friends—people who lift you up, inspire you, challenge you and help you make good decisions. Because of that I have been picky and I am glad I have a group of friends that actually does what my parents talked about"

—Cam Cabral, Susupe

"Best advice from my parents: Wear a mask, wash your hands, practice social distancing, and go home before curfew."

—David Mendiola, San Vicente

"'Don't do drugs.' My Dad drilled that into my head even when I still didn't know what drugs were. I carried that with me into adulthood and when I went off to college by my lonesome, whenever someone would invite me to try illicit substances, I would hear my Dad's voice in my head and that got me out of a lot of trouble and made it easy to just say no."

—Jayvee Vallejera, Fina Sisu

Stressful times are an opportunity to teach children resilience

By VANESSA LOBUE
RUTGERS UNIVERSITY NEWARK

Between the global COVID-19 pandemic, the associated economic downturn and widespread protests over racism, it's difficult for everyone. Many people are struggling, consumed with anxiety and stress, finding ourselves unable to sleep or focus.

As a developmental psychologist and researcher on anxiety and fear in infants and young children, I have been particularly concerned about the impact of the pandemic on young people's mental health. Many have not physically been in school since March. They're isolated from friends and relatives. Some fear that they or loved ones will contract the virus; they may be hurt in racial violence or violence at home—or they might lose their home in a wildfire or flood. These are very real life stressors.

Decades of research have documented serious consequences from chronic stress in childhood. But psychologists have identified ways in which parents teach children how to cope with adversity—an idea commonly known as resilience.

The effects of childhood stress

Children cannot be protected from everything. Parents get divorced. Children grow up in poverty. Friends or loved ones are injured, fall ill or die. Kids can experience neglect, physical or emotional abuse or bullying. Families immigrate, end up homeless or live through natural disasters.

There can be long-term consequences. Hardship in childhood can physically alter the brain architecture of a developing child. It can impair cognitive and social-emotional development, impacting learning, memory, decision-making and more.

Some children develop emotional problems, act out with aggressive or disruptive behavior, form unhealthy relationships or end up in trouble with the law. School performance often suffers, ultimately limiting job and income opportunities. The risk of suicide or drug and alcohol abuse can increase. Kids who are exposed to chronic stress may also develop lifelong health issues, including heart attack, stroke, obesity, diabetes and cancer.

So how do some kids thrive amidst serious challenges, while others are overwhelmed by them? Researchers in my field are working to identify what helps children overcome obstacles and flourish when the odds are stacked against them.

It seems to come down to both support and resilience. Resilience is defined as the ability to spring back, rebound or readily recover from adversity. It's a quality that allows people to be competent and accomplished despite tough circumstances. Some children from difficult backgrounds do well from a young age. Others bloom later, finding their paths once they reach adulthood.

Ann Masten, a pioneer in developmental psychology research, referred to resilience as "ordinary magic." Resilient kids don't have some kind of superpower that helps them persevere while others flounder. It isn't a trait we're born with; it's something that can be fostered.

The key factors that help kids build resilience

The same executive function skills that create academic success seem to bestow critical coping strategies. With the capacity to focus, solve problems and switch between tasks, children find ways to adapt and deal with obstacles in a healthy way.

Controlling behavior and emotions is also key. In a recent study, 8- to 17-year-olds who maintained emotional balance despite mistreatment were less likely to suffer from depression or other emotional problems.

However, relationships seem to be the foundation that keep children grounded. "Attachment relationships" provide a lifelong sense of security and belonging. A parent's or caregiver's consistent support and protection is crucial for healthy development and the most important of these relationships. Other caring adults can help: friends, teachers, neighbors, coaches, mentors or others. Having steadfast support lends stability and helps kids build self-esteem, self-reliance and strength.

Ruth Bader Ginsburg is an icon of resilience. She grew up in a Brooklyn working-class neighborhood and lost her mother—her main support figure—to cancer before graduating from high school. She persevered, graduated first in her class at Cornell University and ultimately became one of only four women to serve on the Supreme Court. Another example is John Lewis, who was the son of sharecroppers in segregated Alabama, yet become a pioneer in the civil rights movement and served 33 years in Congress.

How to encourage resilience at home

There are many ways parents can help their children build resilience. Allowing children to talk—and really listening—shows caring and acceptance, validates their feelings and helps them contextualize issues.

Sometimes the answer is allowing kids some degree of autonomy. Trusting them to try things on their own—and even fail—can help them learn to solve problems or deal with anger, disappointment or other uncomfortable emotions. "Calm breathing" techniques offer another tool that helps children control emotions.

It's important to note that many children face not just one but many hardships. For example, kids who live in poverty may have less present or less competent parents; have high daily levels of stress; suffer hunger, poor nutrition or live in crowded conditions, with few parks; have no health care; study in substandard schools; and have greater likelihood of abuse.

Community-level interventions can help reduce risks while helping children build resilience. These initiatives can provide better living circumstances through affordable housing and improve health by reducing pollution. Strong programs can engage teachers, parents and community members build a stable support system for local children.

Classes in "social and emotional learning" have been gaining traction in schools. This curriculum teaches children to understand and manage their feelings, develop empathy for others, make responsible decisions and solve problems.

These programs yield tangible results: one analysis of 270,000 participants showed that students raised their grades by an average of 11%. Other studies revealed that fewer participants dropped out of school, used drugs or engaged in criminal activity—and school behavior improved.

Helping children build resilience is particularly critical now, as Americans face particular turbulence in daily life. Parents, too, need to guard their mental health in order to provide kids with crucial support: Building resilience isn't just kid stuff.

More than 5 million kids in the U.S. experience some kind of trauma each year. Thousands more live with chronic stress. So amid a global pandemic, it's more important than ever to provide children with as much support and "ordinary magic" as we can.

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What do I do if I come across a phishing email?
DO NOT CLICK ON ANY HYPERLINKS.
DO NOT TRANSFER MONEY TO PEOPLE UNKNOWN TO YOU.
DO NOT ENTER ANY PERSONAL INFORMATION.
Contact the Bank immediately if you have already entered personal information.
DELETE THE MESSAGE.
For more information on how to stay safe from phishing, visit our Fraud Information Center at www.bankofguam.com.
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Business

House Democrats unveil new $2.2T proposal for virus aid

WASHINGTON (AP)— House Democrats unveiled a scaled-back $2.2 trillion aid measure Monday in an attempt to boost long-stalled talks on COVID-19 relief, though there was no sign of progress in continuing negotiations between House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin.

The latest Democratic measure would revive a $600-per-week pandemic jobless benefit and send a second round of $1,200 direct payments to most individuals. It would scale back an aid package to state and local governments to a still-huge $436 billion, send a whopping $225 billion to colleges and universities, and deliver another round of subsidies to businesses under the Paycheck Protection Program.

The proposal represents a cutback from a $3.4 billion bill that passed the House in May, but remains well above what Senate Republicans are willing to accept. Republicans have endorsed staying in the $650 billion to $1 trillion range.

Pelosi

Pelosi said Monday that she remains in contact with Mnuchin, with whom she negotiated several earlier relief packages. The two spoke briefly on Sunday and Monday evening and are slated to talk again Tuesday morning, according to Pelosi spokesperson Drew Hammill.

"We've come down $1 trillion, and they need to come up because we have to crush this virus," Pelosi said Monday on MSNBC. "It takes money to crush the virus. It takes money to make the schools safe. It takes money to put money in people's pockets."

Talks over the summer broke down in acrimony and name-calling, and conversations this month haven't produced visible progress. Even if the rival sides could agree on a "top line" figure from which to negotiate details, dozens of difficult issues would remain to be sorted out.

For instance, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., is insisting that a liability shield against potential lawsuits brought against businesses, schools and universities that reopen during the pandemic be part of the legislation. Pelosi opposes the idea and didn't include it in Monday's legislation.

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for

Max Investments LLC

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Max Investments LLC is proposing to operate a Cannabis Farm establishment. This use is classified as "Cannabis Farm" and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No. 502 NEW-3-5 in Dandan village. This area is zoned as Rural.

A public hearing will be held on:

Date: October 07, 2020
Time: 5:00 pm
Place: Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-purpose Center Building Susupe, Saipan

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 4:30 pm, September 31, 2020. Please send written comments via e-mail to geri.delacruz@zoning.gov.mp. via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Tatiana Babauta, Chairwoman

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for

Primo Farms

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Primo Farms is proposing to operate a Cannabis Farm establishment. This use is classified as "Cannabis Farm" and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No. 338-1 in Talafofo village. This area is zoned as Rural.

A public hearing will be held on:

Date: October 07, 2020
Time: 5:00 pm
Place: Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-purpose Center Building Susupe, Saipan

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 4:30 pm, September 31, 2020. Please send written comments via e-mail to geri.delacruz@zoning.gov.mp. via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

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/s/ Tatiana Babauta, Chairwoman

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for

Tuu Group LLC

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Tuu Group LLC is proposing to operate a Cannabis Farm establishment. This use is classified as "Cannabis Farm" and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No. TR 22774 in As Mahetog village. This area is zoned as Rural.

A public hearing will be held on:

Date: October 07, 2020
Time: 5:00 pm
Place: Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-purpose Center Building Susupe, Saipan

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/s/ Tatiana Babauta, Chairwoman

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for

Saipan Emerald Villa

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Saipan Emerald Villa is proposing to operate a Bed & Breakfast establishment. This use is classified as "Hotel/Motel" and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No. 045 A 128 in As Matuis village. This area is zoned as Village Residential.

A public hearing will be held on:

Date: October 07, 2020
Time: 5:00 pm
Place: Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-purpose Center Building Susupe, Saipan

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 4:30 pm, September 31, 2020. Please send written comments via e-mail to geri.delacruz@zoning.gov.mp. via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

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/s/ Tatiana Babauta, Chairwoman

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for

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The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Saipan Emerald Villa is proposing to operate a Bed & Breakfast establishment. This use is classified as "Hotel/Motel" and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No. 045 A 129 in As Matuis village. This area is zoned as Village Residential.

A public hearing will be held on:

Date: October 07, 2020
Time: 5:00 pm
Place: Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-purpose Center Building Susupe, Saipan

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For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Tatiana Babauta, Chairwoman

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for

Marianas Hemp Farms

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Marianas Hemp Farms is proposing to operate a Cannabis Farm establishment. This use is classified as "Cannabis Farm" and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No. 053 E 11 in As Teo village. This area is zoned as Rural.

A public hearing will be held on:

Date: October 07, 2020
Time: 5:00 pm
Place: Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-purpose Center Building Susupe, Saipan

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 4:30 pm, September 31, 2020. Please send written comments via e-mail to geri.delacruz@zoning.gov.mp. via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Tatiana Babauta, Chairwoman

BUSINESS

Loving Hands reopens

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Loving Hands Kindergarten and Enrichment Center is bigger and children are exposed to various activities that help in their development

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Parents can take a back seat, relax, or concentrate on their work as they can get the help they need in making sure their child is active, learning, and developing even at a young age at Loving Hands Daycare Center in San Antonio and its new branch called Loving Hands Kindergarten and Enrichment Center in Koblerville.

Despite of the COVID-19 pandemic, owner Dhez Javier took courage in opening making both centers operational while following strict health and safety protocols. "I have this deep desire to make a positive difference in children's lives. Loving Hands is a great place for children to meet other children of the same age and others may be younger or older but the child will be interacting with them on a day to day basis, which can help in the child's development before formal school," she said.

"I opened Loving Hands Daycare Center in 2007 and in 2016, we expanded to Loving Hands Kindergarten and Enrichment Center… parents can be assured that we are compliant with the health and safety protocols of the Centers and Disease Control and Prevention," she added.

The various activities that are in place for both Loving Hands branches include infant and toddlers program, pre-school program, and after-school program. "We do not only take care of the child but we also have various activities and programs for the children. These programs will help the child to learn various educational concepts at a young age," Javier said.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Young children indulge in various activities and are taught good hygiene skills especially during the pandemic.

» Two branches to strictly follow safety guidelines

"Children who start going to Loving Hands may find it easier to adjust when they set foot to formal schooling environment. Children have been exposed to other children their age, they learn to follow a schedule, they enjoy different learning activities that makes transitioning to formal schooling easier for them," Javier said

As for slots, Javier said that they currently have limited slots. "Since the classroom occupancy is at 50%, we are have limited slots as of now. But as soon as the governor makes any changes to the Community Vulnerability Level like increase in occupancy, we will comply with that and open more slots."

"We value every child that is under our care and that is why we are enforcing social distancing, wearing of masks, washing of hands and sanitizing high touch things and items in the classrooms," Javier added.

Both Loving Hands branches are open from Monday to Friday, 7am-6pm. For more information, call Loving Hands Daycare in San Antonio at (670) 235-0611 or Loving Hands Kindergarten and Enrichment Center at (670) 288-1004 or check them out on Facebook.

Nation

Expert: Trump's debt nat'l security concern

WASHINGTON (AP) — Revelations that President Donald Trump is personally liable for more than $400 million in debt are casting a shadow that ethics experts say raises national security concerns he could be manipulated to sway U.S. policy by organizations or individuals he's indebted to.

New scrutiny of Trump, who claims great success as a private businessman, comes after The New York Times reported that tax records show he is personally carrying a staggering amount of debt — including more than $300 million in loans that will come due in the next four years.

Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass., was blunt about the potential implications. "He may be vulnerable to financial blackmail from a hostile foreign power and God knows what else," said Warren, a frequent Trump critic.

The Times said the tax records also show that Trump did not pay any federal income taxes in 11 years between 2000 and 2018, raising questions about the fairness of a president — who purports to be a billionaire — paying less in taxes than most Americans.

The politically damaging revelations about Trump's tax avoidance, however, are perhaps less concerning than word the president is holding hundreds of millions of dollars of soon-to-mature debt, ethics experts said.

"Americans should be concerned about the president's debt because it's a national security risk for our country," said Donald Sherman, deputy director of the nonprofit government watchdog group Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington (CREW). "This is information that the president has aggressively and repeatedly tried to keep away from the public."

Trump, citing an ongoing Internal Revenue Service audit, has refused to follow the post-Watergate precedent set by other presidents of releasing his tax returns, so the complexities of his financial interests and whom he does business with have remained opaque. He's fighting ongoing court battles with New York's attorney general, Manhattan's district attorney and two House committees who want the records.

Richard Painter, who served as chief ethics attorney in Republican George W. Bush's White House, also noted that Trump-owned companies have declared bankruptcy six times, raising the question: Why have lenders been willing to keep risking loans of such enormous amounts?

"Why would banks assume the risk on these loans?" Painter said. "Or did someone else quietly assume risk of that loan for the bank to make it happen?"

Trump, according to his latest financial disclosure statement, reported that he had 14 loans on 12 properties.

One lender, Germany-based Deutsche Bank, continued to do business with Trump even after he defaulted in 2008 on a loan for his Chicago hotel and condo development. Trump filed suit against the bank and others whom he blamed for his inability to repay.

3 killed in Northern California wildfire; thousands flee

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)— Northern California's wine country was on fire again Monday as strong winds fanned flames in the already scorched region, destroying homes and prompting orders for nearly 70,000 people to evacuated. Meanwhile, three people died in a separate fire further north in the state.

In Sonoma County, residents of the Oakmont Gardens senior living facility in Santa Rosa boarded brightly lit city buses in the darkness overnight, some wearing bathrobes and using walkers. They wore masks to protect against the coronavirus as orange flames marked the dark sky.

The fire threat forced Adventist Health St. Helena hospital to suspend care and transfer all patients elsewhere.

The fires that began Sunday in the famed Napa-Sonoma wine country about 45 miles (72 kilometers) north of San Francisco came as the region nears the third anniversary of deadly wildfires that erupted in 2017, including one that killed 22 people. Just a month ago, many of those same residents were evacuated from the path of a lightning-sparked fire that became the fourth-largest in state history.

"Our firefighters have not had much of a break, and these residents have not had much of a break," said Daniel Berlant, assistant deputy director with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, known as Cal Fire.

Sonoma County Supervisor Susan Gorin evacuated her property in the Oakmont community of Santa Rosa at about 1 a.m. She is rebuilding a home damaged in the 2017 fires.

Gorin said she saw three neighboring houses in flames as she fled early Monday.

"We're experienced with that," she said of the fires. "Once you lose a house and represent thousands of folks who've lost homes, you become pretty fatalistic that this is a new way of life and, depressingly, a normal way of life, the megafires that are spreading throughout the West."

More than 68,000 people in Sonoma and Napa counties have been evacuated in the latest inferno, one of nearly 30 fire clusters burning across the state, said Cal Fire Division Chief Ben Nichols.

In Napa County, the entire town of Calistoga, population around 5,000, was ordered to evacuate Monday evening.

Many more residents have been warned that they might have to flee, even though winds eased significantly Monday afternoon, giving firefighters an opportunity to make some progress, he said.

"The smoky skies that we're under are a sign that there's not a lot of air movement out there moving the smoke around," Nichols said at an evening briefing. "Not good for air quality, and folks outside exercising, but great for us to work on containing this fire and working on putting it out."

The Glass Fire broke out before 4 a.m. Sunday and merged with two other fires to scorch more than 56 square miles (145 square kilometers) as of Monday. There was no containment. Officials did not have an estimate of the number of homes destroyed or burned, but the blaze engulfed the Chateau Boswell Winery in St. Helena and at least one five-star resort.

World

China fires back at US over env't, S. China Sea

BEIJING (AP)—U.S.-China friction flared again Monday, with Beijing firing back at accusations by Washington that it is a leading cause of global environmental damage and has reneged on its promise not to militarize the South China Sea.

A document issued last week by the State Department cited China's record on issues from greenhouse gas emissions to air and water and soil pollution, illegal logging and wildlife trafficking.

"While the Chinese people have suffered the worst environmental impacts of its actions, Beijing also threatens the global economy and global health by unsustainably exploiting natural resources and exporting its willful disregard for the environment," the document said.

Department spokesperson Morgan Ortagus followed that with a statement Sunday saying China has "pursued a reckless and provocative militarization" of disputed outposts in the South China Sea's Spratly Islands, adding that China's ruling Communist Party "does not honor its words or commitments."

Foreign ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin responded Monday by asking why the United States was withdrawing from the Paris agreement on climate change, calling the U.S. the "biggest destroyer of international environmental cooperation."

Wang also said U.S. military actions have made it "the biggest threat to the peace and stability of the South China Sea."

The trading of accusations comes amid disputes over trade, technology, Hong Kong and Taiwan, spying accusations against Chinese diplomats and Beijing's assertions of territorial claims in the South China Sea and elsewhere that have driven the bilateral relationship to its lowest point in decades.

The State Department's attack on China's environmental record follows China's announcement to the United Nations General Assembly last week that it aims to have carbon dioxide emissions peak before 2030 and achieve carbon neutrality by 2060, a pledge that won applause from environmentalists.

The State Department cited China as "the largest emitter of greenhouse gases; the largest source of marine debris; the worst perpetrators of illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing; and the world's largest consumer of trafficked wildlife and timber products. "

It singled out leader Xi Jinping's signature "Belt and Road" global infrastructure building initiative as lacking "clear environmental guidelines, safety standards, and worker protections," and said China is saddling host countries with environmental burdens and leading them away from sustainable development.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 20 – 042

Opening Date: September 29, 2020 • Closing Date: October 13, 2020

POSITION TITLE:	**Trades Assistant**
DEPARTMENT:	**Water Division**
LOCATION:	**Saipan, Northern Marianas Islands, USA**
ANNUAL SALARY:	**$16,742.00 - $22,602.00 per annum, Non -Exempt**
CONTRACT:	**Not Contracted**
POSITION(S):	**One (1)**

The incumbent will be under the direct supervision of the Drinking Water & Wastewater Division Manager or his/her designee.

Duties:

- Assists with installations, repairs and general maintenance in assigned service area; operates motorized vehicles, equipment machinery, and hand and power tools.
- Performs routine and preventative maintenance on equipment, vehicles, systems and/or infrastructure; performs basic inspections; and conducts basic troubleshooting of issues.
- Responds to trouble calls as needed.
- Prepares job site for work including gathering and setting up materials and supplies, and setting work safety barriers for protection and to direct traffic flow away from work site.
- Gathers, cleans and returns equipment, materials and supplies used.
- Cleans and maintains work site after project or repair work is complete.
- Monitors equipment; takes readings and collects data; documents equipment readings; prepares and submits data and work reports.
- Performs inventory spot checks to ensure adequate materials and supplies are available for daily maintenance activities.
- Performing daily well and pump station facility maintenance, cleaning and monitoring;
- Assisting plumbing and chlorine maintenance crew;
- Utilizing digging equipment for locating and repairing leaks;
- Repairing and securing pressure reducer valves, main valves, service lines and laterals, and booster pumps;
- Assisting with meter installation and repair;
- Collecting water samples.
- Must be able to lift objects weighing at 40 lbs. or more.
- Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

Minimum Requirements:
Education: High School Diploma or GED or ABE Program AS Diploma.
Knowledge of: Customer service principles; Basic mathematical concepts; Safety procedures and safe work practices; Modern office technology.
Skills in: Providing customer service; Reading maps and drawings; Operating heavy and light equipment machinery, hand and power tools required of assigned area; Adhering to safety procedures and safe work practices; Prioritizing tasks and managing time for efficiency; Identifying issues and solving problems; Providing attention to detail; Taking equipment readings and recording data; Maintaining activity logs and reports; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

- **Licensing:**
  - Valid CNMI Driver's License with appropriate class.

All applicants may be tested and all applicants are subject to pre-employment drug test.

How to Apply: Submit a completed CUC Employment Application, resume, and applicable supporting documents to the CUC Human Resources office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan, Monday through Friday 7:30 am – 4:30 pm (Except Legal Holidays). Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota may submit their documents to their respective CUC Administration office. Application, resume and supporting documents can also be e-mailed to: employment.applications@cucgov.org

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Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 20 – 045

Opening Date: September 29, 2020 • Closing Date: October 13, 2020

POSITION TITLE:	**Trades Assistant - Operator**
DEPARTMENT:	**Rota Power Generation Division**
LOCATION:	**Rota, Northern Marianas Islands, USA**
ANNUAL SALARY:	**$16,742.00 - $22,602.00 per annum, Non - Exempt**
CONTRACT:	**Not Contracted**
POSITION(S):	**One (1)**

The incumbent will be under the direct supervision of the Rota Resident Manager or his/her designee.

Duties:

- Assists with the safe and efficient operation of all plant equipment and machinery including, but not limited to; incinerators, generators, operation of valves, plant production operations, and unloading of diesel fuel tank trucks to storage tanks.
- Follows all safety operations procedures during operations and maintenance activities.
- Monitoring Plant systems as assigned.
- Prepares job site for work including gathering and setting up materials and supplies, and setting work safety barriers for protection.
- Gathers, cleans and returns equipment, materials and supplies used.
- Cleans and maintains work site after project or repair work is complete.
- Monitors equipment.
- Takes readings and collects data.
- Documents equipment readings.
- Prepares and submits data and work reports.
- Performs inventory spot checks to ensure adequate materials and supplies are available for daily work activities.
- Assisting with equipment inspections, cleaning, corrosion control, and painting.
- Operating incinerators; oil and water separator pump, servicing and preparing oil filters.
- Maintaining grounds, trimming trees and removing debris and housekeeping.
- Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

Minimum Requirements:
Education: High School Diploma or GED or ABE Program AS. Training and knowledge in operations repair, and maintenance of power generating and/or industrial equipment/facilities desired but not required.
Knowledge of: Customer service principles; Basic mathematical concepts; Safety procedures and safe work practices; Modern office technology.
Skills in: Operating heavy and light equipment machinery, hand and power tools required of assigned area; Adhering to safety procedures and safe work practices; Prioritizing tasks and managing time for efficiency; Identifying issues and solving problems; Providing attention to detail; Taking equipment readings and recording data; Maintaining activity logs and reports; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

Must be able to lift and carry heavy objects of 45 pounds and over, climb ladders, reach above the shoulders, stand, sit, crawl and kneel for prolonged periods and perform repeated bending. Recognize color codes, operate cranes and motor vehicles. Work inside around machinery in operation; in varying degree of temperature in tight or cramped (confined) work spaces, at heights, on ladders or scaffolds, and on slippery or uneven walking surfaces in close proximity to high and low voltage circuits and climbs stairs frequently. Occasionally use solvents, de-greasing agents, or other chemical agents, and be assigned to protracted or irregular hours of work. Work in environments exposed to dust, oil, grease, constant or excessive noise, vibration, and smoke and gas fumes. Work closely with others and/or alone depending on assigned daily activities.

Must be available to work a 24/7 rotation shift to include weekends and holidays, may be on call for emergency response.

- **Licensing:**
  - Valid CNMI Driver's License with appropriate class.

All applicants may be tested and all applicants are subject to pre-employment drug test.

How to Apply: Submit a completed CUC Employment Application, resume, and applicable supporting documents to the CUC Human Resources office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan, from Monday to Friday (Except Legal Holidays), 7:30 am – 4:30 pm. Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota may submit their documents to their respective CUC Administration office. Application, resume and supporting documents can also be e-mailed to: employment.applications@cucgov.org

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Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 20 – 044
Emergency hire

Opening Date: September 29, 2020 • Closing Date: October 13, 2020

POSITION TITLE:	**Fiscal Technician, Senior**
DEPARTMENT:	**Billing and Collections Department/Administration**
LOCATION:	**Saipan, Northern Marianas Islands, USA**
ANNUAL SALARY:	**$24,096.00 - $29,373.00 per annum, Non -Exempt**
CONTRACT:	**Not Contracted**
POSITION(S):	**Three (3)**

The incumbent will be under the direct supervision of the Chief of Administration or his/her designee.

Duties:

- May provide lead direction and/or supervise staff to include: prioritizing and assigning work; conducting performance evaluations; ensuring staff is trained; ensuring that employees follow policies and procedures; maintaining a healthy and safe working environment; and, making hiring, termination, and disciplinary recommendations.
- Receives, reviews and verifies vendor invoices and statements; service reports; time sheets; payroll information; and/or other payable documentation; ensures completeness and accuracy of calculations and information.
- Determines general ledger account information or expense allocation information; processes accounts payable or payroll transactions; routes check payment or wire transfer information for approval; posts accounts upon approval.
- Researches and reviews account, billing or system information; prepares reconciliations of financial data; updates and maintains account or employee data; calculates and prepares financial adjustments or account charge information.
- Assists internal and external customers with inquiries or account information; receives complaints; researches issues; provides information and explains processes and procedures; recommends resolutions to issues.
- Retrieves, files and maintains records, documents and tracking spreadsheets; processes purchase orders; prepares reports, work orders and/or audit confirmations; compiles documents and drafts correspondence.
- Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

Minimum Requirements:
Education: Associate's Degree in Accounting or directly related field and 3 years of fiscal support experience.
Knowledge of: Applicable Federal, Commonwealth and local laws, codes, regulations and/or ordinances; Supervisory principles, practices and techniques (based on assignment); Customer service principles; Mathematical principles; Recordkeeping principles; Research methods; Modern office technology.
Skills in: Interpreting and applying applicable laws, codes, regulations and standards; Supervising, monitoring, training and evaluating staff (based on assignment); Receiving, reviewing, posting and reconciling fiscal data or account information; Verifying fiscal data and updating account information; Responding to inquiries, researching information and resolving issues; Performing mathematical calculations and making corrections and adjustments; Researching and preparing account adjustments and related documentation; Preparing and maintaining files, forms, correspondence, reports and records; Updating, maintaining and preparing reports and spreadsheet tracking documents; Researching account information and providing information regarding billing disputes; Organizing and maintaining records management systems; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

All applicants may be tested and all applicants are subject to pre-employment drug test.

How to Apply: Submit a completed CUC Employment Application, resume, and applicable supporting documents to the CUC Human Resources office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan, Monday through Friday 7:30 am to 4:30 pm (Except Legal Holidays). Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota may submit their documents to their respective CUC Administration office. Application, resume and supporting documents can also be e-mailed to: employment.applications@cucgov.org

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Good Housekeeping

Ask Angie's List: How can I soundproof a room?

By PAUL F. P. POGUE
ANGIE'S LIST

There are several reasons you might want to soundproof a room in your home. Perhaps you like being able to run a big sound system, or you perform music that might annoy your neighbors (or family) if it got too loud. Maybe you just want to watch football at full volume! Whatever the case, you have multiple soundproofing strategies that can reduce vibrations, plug sound leaks and absorb noise.

Soundproofing can also work both ways. If you have a lot of ambient outside noise, a nearby airport or train track, or even loud family members who stomp on the stairs too hard, these methods can make your space more peaceful and quiet.

Some DIY solutions are fairly basic and inexpensive methods to slow down sound. You can also professionally soundproof to give the best sound quality inside your space and promote domestic tranquility outside it.

DIY soundproofing

A number of simple methods can scale back noise. Sound travels in a wave, though not quite like water. Different frequencies vibrate in different ways. When sound strikes floors, walls and ceilings, it then vibrates the air beyond them. And of course, it travels very well through unimpeded air. So, you have two goals: Seal up gaps, and find ways to absorb the sound as it strikes surfaces.

You can purchase acoustic sealant from a hardware store and apply it to any gaps between your lighting fixtures, door casings and switch boxes. Just as caulk prevents air loss, this sealant keeps sound from sneaking through easy gaps.

Rugs, carpets and drapes will dampen noise. If you have a hardwood floor, simply adding a new rug or carpet will reduce sound travel and tie the room together.

(DMITRII ANIKIN/DREAMSTIME/TNS)

Acoustic foam panels provide the most effective soundproofing, but many other methods can help without changing the look of your room.

If you want to try a solution that takes a bit more effort, add an extra layer of drywall to the room. Drywall is a dense material that stops noise, so it's an ideal soundproofing solution.

Professional soundproofing

Soundproofing a room costs an average of $1,700. Most jobs cost between $1,000 and $2,400. The size of the room, the quality of the materials, and the desired final look all affect the price. Ask a remodeling pro if they have specific experience with soundproofing before hiring them.

The best time to soundproof is during construction or remodeling. Certain types of insulation, drywall layers, and additional studs to support insulation can suppress sound effectively. You can also install acoustic underlayments or acoustic slabs below your floorboards. One big advantage of these methods: they don't change the look of your room.

For the most effective soundproofing on the residential level, you can install mass-loaded vinyl for the floor and acoustic panels for all other surfaces. These are the ribbed and sometimes eggshell-patterned foam panels that do a great job absorbing and deadening sound. They absorb echoes and internally bouncing sound as well, making them ideal for clarity while recording.

DEATH & FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT

†Concepcion Igisaiar Concepcion

affectionately known as
"Chong Justo", "Chong EMPI", Connie

In celebration of her new life she now joins:
Spouse: †Justo (Dela) Cruz Concepcion
Parents: †Joaquin Seman Igisaiar
†Maria Quidachay Aguero Igisaiar
†Candelaria Ada Igisaiar
Children: †Felix Ray Igisaiar Concepcion
†Ken Robert Igisaiar Concepcion
Grandson: †Joey Frank Concepcion Mesa
Brothers: †Julian Q. Igisaiar
†John Q. Igisaiar
Sister In Law: †Margarita Blas Igisaiar

Love and Memories will forever be cherished and remembered in the hearts of her:
Aunt: Julia Q. Barto and Family
Brother: Francisco Q. Igisaiar and Family
Sister: Maria "Nan Elang" I. Cruz and Family
Godson: James A. Villagomez

Children / In Laws:
Maryann C. Babauta / Joseph Babauta and Family (Guam)
Patricia C. Mesa / Jose Mesa and Family (California)
Joseph I. Concepcion / Joanne R. Concepcion and Family (Virginia)
Rosa C. Lecias / Edward Lecias and Family (California)
Vicente I. Concepcion / Glynis M. Concepcion and Family (Guam)
(†Felix I. Concepcion) / Bernadette T. Tajalle and Family (Guam)
Kathryn Magers and Family (Arizona)
Remedios C. Macayan / Ernani Macayan and Family (Saipan)
Manuel I. Concepcion / Ann Cruz and Family (Guam)
Alice I. Concepcion / Jose T. Castro and Family (Saipan)
(†Ken Robert I. Concepcion) / Normalyn Y. Concepcion and Family (California)

In addition to numerous nieces, nephews, grandchildren, great grandchildren, great-great grandchildren and extended family members and friends.

Daily Mass is being offered at 6am at our Lady of Mount Carmel Cathedral.
On October 2, 2020, her remains will be escorted from CHCC to Mount Carmel Cathedral, at 7:30am.
Mass of Christian Burial will be at 10am followed by interment services, where she will be laid to a peaceful rest with her beloved, at Mount Carmel Cemetery.

Your thoughts and prayers are greatly appreciated.
Si Yu'us Ma'ase-Olomwaay.
GINEN I FAMILIA

In Loving Memory of

Maria Concepcion Quitugua Babauta

LOVINGLY KNOWN AS
"AUNTIE TITA", "KITALANG", KIT"
BORN TO LIFE ON APRIL 15, 1956
CALLED TO ETERNAL LIFE ON SEPTEMBER 22, 2020

In her new Life, Maria will be met at the gates of Heaven by her:
Parents: Miguel Miyasaki and Anuncia Quitugua Babauta
Grandparents: Juan Cruz and Maria Miyasaki Babauta
Jose Quitugua and Consolacion Sablan
Catherine Johnson
Sister: Clarissa Q. Babauta

Her loving memories will forever live in the hearts of her:
Special Friend: **Ernestina "Tina" Billones**

Brothers/Sisters/Spouses & Families:
Pedro Q. & Lorraine A. Babauta (Michael A. & Jane P. Babauta-Konin Julius, Kyara Jazlyn, Yo'ase' Viraine, Lina'la' Janae; Peter A. Babauta/Tiana Mahealani P. Ranjo),
Juan Q. & Susan R. Babauta (Jessica R. Babauta, Nancy R. Babauta/Edwin S. Villagomez),
Cynthia Q. Babauta
George Q. & Cindy F. Babauta (Clarisa F. Babauta/Miguel Alcantara, Jr.),
Prescilla B. & Larry Stillwaugh,
Fredie Q. Babauta,
Henry Q. Babauta,
Eddie Q. & Tracy Babauta (+Jonathan Robbins-Jonathan James Robbins; Jason & Ariana Robbins-Mason Robbins, Ethan Robbins; Jacob Robbins),
Florencio Q. Babauta (Evangeline Jade C. Babauta, Larson Michael C. Babauta)

Numerous nephews, nieces, godchildren, cousins, aunts, uncles, friends will miss her dearly……

Daily mass is being offered at 6:00 p.m. Monday to Saturday at San Roque Church and 7:00 a.m. and 8:30 a.m. on Sundays.

On Saturday, October 3, 2020, viewing will be from 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. at the Borja's Funeral Home. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:00 a.m. at the San Roque Church. Interment services will be at the Tanapag Public Cemetery where she will be laid to rest in peace and love.

Your thoughts, prayers, words of comfort and presence are sincerely appreciated.

QUITUGUA-BABAUTA FAMILY

Life & Style

Dissident Ai Weiwei protests possible extradition of Assange

LONDON (AP)—The dissident Chinese contemporary artist Ai Weiwei staged a silent protest outside London's Old Bailey court on Monday against the possible extradition of WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange to the United States, where he is wanted on an array of espionage charges.

The court, meanwhile, heard that Assange, if convicted in the U.S., could end up spending the rest of his life imprisoned in the federal Supermax prison in Florence, Colorado. The facility is home to Unabomber Ted Kaczynski, Mexican drug lord Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman, 1993 World Trade Center mastermind Ramzi Yousef and Zacarias Moussaoui, the only man ever convicted in a U.S. court for a role in the Sept. 11 attacks.

Ai, who visited Assange at the Ecuadorian Embassy in London where he was holed up for seven years until April 2019 and subsequently at Britain's Belmarsh high security prison, said the authorities have a responsibility to protect the freedom of the press.

"He is prepared to fight, but this is not fair to him," he said. "Free him, let him be a free man."

U.S. prosecutors have indicted the 49-year-old Assange on 17 espionage charges and one charge of computer misuse over WikiLeaks' publication of secret American military documents a decade ago. The charges carry a maximum sentence of 175 years in prison.

As well as arguing that the extradition would pose a threat to Assange's life, his defense team say that Assange is a journalist and entitled to

Chinese contemporary artist and activist Ai Weiwei stands with protesters outside the Old Bailey in support of Julian Assange's bid for freedom during his extradition hearing, in London, Monday, Sept. 28, 2020. AP

First Amendment protections for the publication of leaked documents that exposed U.S. military wrongdoing in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"He truly represents a core value of why we are free—because we have freedom of the press.," Ai said. "We need a lot of protesting, and it can take any form. I'm an artist, if I cannot use my art, it's very limited, then I'd rather just be silent."

Assange's father, John Shipton, was also protesting outside the court.

"Ai Weiwei is an artist of gigantic international standing, he stands alongside Julian to give the fight international meaning," he said.

Ai, 63, is one of the world's most successful artists, famous around the world for his installations of bicycles and sunflower seeds. In his native China, he was alternately encouraged, tolerated and harassed, spending time in detention and being barred for years from leaving the country. He was arrested at Beijing's airport in April 2011 and held for 81 days without explanation during a wider crackdown on dissent. He is now based in Berlin and in the U.K.

On Monday, the court heard from two witnesses who said Assange would face intolerable conditions if extradited.

It is widely mooted that Assange would be moved to the pre-trial facilities at Alexandria Detention Center in Virginia if extradited. Other recent high-profile federal defendants there include President Donald Trump's 2016 campaign chairman Paul Manafort and Chelsea Manning, the former intelligence analyst who leaked a trove of documents to WikiLeaks and who tried to take her own life earlier this year at the facility.

Malta seeks shark tooth fossil presented to Prince George

VALLETTA, Malta (AP)—Malta says it will seek to retrieve a shark tooth that was presented to Britain's Prince George by veteran broadcaster and naturalist David Attenborough, who found the fossil during a holiday on the Mediterranean island in the 1960s.

Culture Minister Jose Herrera said he will "get the ball rolling" to bring back the tooth to be exhibited in a Maltese museum.

"There are some artifacts that are important to natural heritage which ended up abroad and deserve to be retrieved," he told the Times of Malta.

The fossil, believed to be around 3 million years old, belonged to an extinct species of a giant shark that could grow up to 16 meters (about 50 feet), three times the size of modern great white sharks.

Attenborough, 94, presented the fossil to Prince George during a private viewing of his new documentary at Kensington Palace.

Photos released by the palace over the weekend showed the 7-year-old prince looking intrigued as he looked at the tooth. Malta is a former British colony that obtained independence in 1964.

Kensington Palace declined to comment.

Former US Ambassador to Ukraine to be honored by PEN America

NEW YORK (AP)—Marie Yovanovitch, the former U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine who was forced out of her job last year by the Trump administration, is being honored by PEN America.

The literary and human rights organization announced Monday that Yovanovitch has won the PEN/Benenson Courage Award, of which previous recipients include Anita Hill and student activists from Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Florida. During the impeachment hearings of President Donald Trump, Yovanovitch told House investigators that Ukrainian officials had warned her in advance that Rudy Giuliani and other Trump insiders were planning to "do things, including to me" and were "looking to hurt" her.

Yovanovitch was recalled from Kyiv as Giuliani pressed Ukrainian officials to investigate baseless corruption allegations against former Vice President Joe Biden, the 2020 presidential candidate for the Democratic Party, and his son Hunter. The alleged attempt to make a foreign government investigate a political opponent led to Trump's impeachment in December on two counts by the Democratic-run House. The Republican-run Senate acquitted him on both counts.

"At a time when, for government officials, standing on principle can spell an end to a professional career, Ambassador Yovanovitch did not flinch or falter," said Suzanne Nossel, CEO of PEN America, said in a statement. "She is a powerful exemplar of the kind of courage this award is meant to honor."

Yovanovitch is currently working on a memoir, expected to come out next year. She will be among the guests Dec. 8 at PEN's annual gala, to be held online because of the coronavirus pandemic. Others receiving awards will include author and musician Patti Smith and Chinese dissident Xu Zhiyong.

Man uses family gas money to buy birthday party tattoo

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

DEAR ABBY: My family just came back from a relative's after a weekend visit. The occasion was a birthday party, and he had a tattoo artist come over. My boyfriend—the father of our 14- and 3-year-olds—spent our last $100 and went ahead and got himself a tattoo! We aren't rich, and we had to borrow money for gas to get home.

I think he is the most selfish person on the face of the planet, and I get mad at him for every other little thing now. I can't imagine many adult men would do that to their partner. I know a few who would even say, "No, Honey, YOU get something. I can wait." Is there any hope for mankind?

MARK OF DISASTER IN WASHINGTON

DEAR MARK OF DISASTER: There is plenty of hope for mankind; for the father of your 14- and 3-year-olds, maybe not so much. Was he under the influence at that party, or does he make poor decisions about money often?

That tatt is now a constant reminder of your disappointment in him, so I hope it's in a place where you don't have to see it every day or night. You have my sympathy, but you chose this person as a life partner.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My parents have been together for more than three decades, but their marriage has been strained for years. Still, they won't pull the plug and call it quits. It's making us kids (all in our 20s and out of the house) and our extended family confused and frustrated.

They still live under one roof, although they spend all of their time in separate parts of the house and communicate only through us kids. They're clearly miserable, but if any of us tries to speak to them about their toxic dynamic, each one blames the other.

Abby, I adore both of my parents, but they're becoming shells of themselves. I know it's not my business to step in, but something has to change. I can't handle another tense holiday visit. What should I do?

CONCERNED IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR CONCERNED: You and your siblings should sit down with your parents and tell them the effect their toxic dynamic has had on you as a family. All of you should urge them to seek counseling from a licensed marriage and family therapist. Then cross your fingers and hope they are willing to follow through. However, if they aren't and you can't handle another tense holiday visit, I recommend you make other plans and tell them why.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I am 13. Three years ago, I was in a car accident that left me in a wheelchair. I have been able to move on in life and am happy and have lots of friends who help me stay active in sports, etc. My problem is, I had a friend before my accident who moved away, and I'm sure he doesn't know his once best friend can no longer walk.

I just heard his family is moving back here, and I'm not sure how to handle this. Should I contact him before the move, or wait and be like, "Oh, by the way"? Do you have any advice?

WONDERING IN NEW YORK

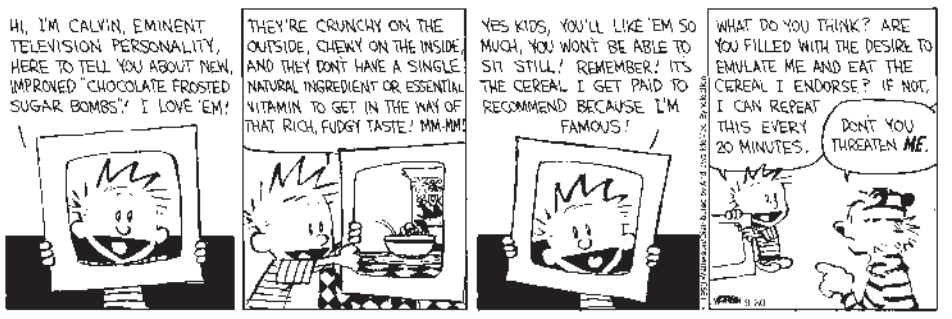
DEAR WONDERING: The news is bound to be a shock. If you have this young man's contact information, I vote for letting him know in advance about the accident. And while you're at it, fill him in on what you have been doing since he left town.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


HI, I'M CALVIN, EMINENT TELEVISION PERSONALITY, HERE TO TELL YOU ABOUT NEW, IMPROVED "CHOCOLATE FROSTED SUGAR BOMBS"! I LOVE 'EM!
THEY'RE CRUNCHY ON THE OUTSIDE, CHEWY ON THE INSIDE, AND THEY DON'T HAVE A SINGLE NATURAL INGREDIENT OR ESSENTIAL VITAMIN TO GET IN THE WAY OF THAT RICH, FUDGY TASTE! MM-MM!
YES KIDS, YOU'LL LIKE 'EM SO MUCH, YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO SIT STILL! REMEMBER! IT'S THE CEREAL I GET PAID TO RECOMMEND BECAUSE I'M FAMOUS!
WHAT DO YOU THINK? ARE YOU FILLED WITH THE DESIRE TO EMULATE ME AND EAT THE CEREAL I ENDORSE? IF NOT, I CAN REPEAT THIS EVERY 20 MINUTES.
DON'T YOU THREATEN ME.

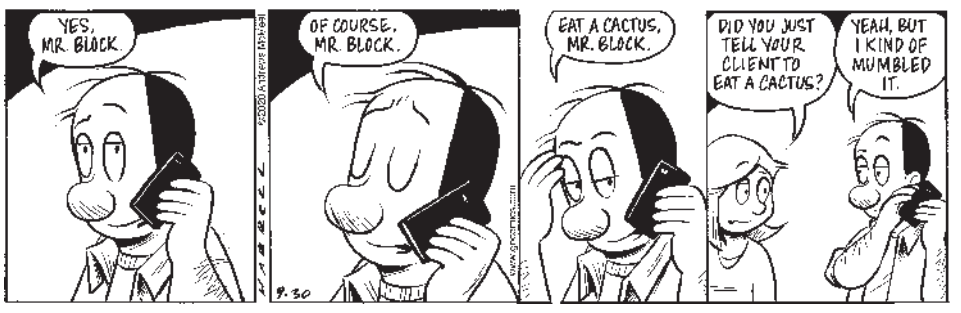
Garfield®

By Jim Davis

I LIVE IN A HOUSE FULL OF SUPERHEROES
JIM DAVIS 9-30
CAPTAIN DULL...
AND HIS SIDEKICK, CLUELESS BOY!
I HAVE THE FEELING WE'VE BEEN INSULTED, CLUELESS BOY

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


YES, MR. BLOCK.
OF COURSE, MR. BLOCK.
EAT A CACTUS, MR. BLOCK.
DID YOU JUST TELL YOUR CLIENT TO EAT A CACTUS?
YEAH, BUT I KIND OF MUMBLED IT.
9-30

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

BACK FROM YOUR WALK ALREADY?
I DID TWENTY OF MY 10,000-STEPS-A-DAY GOAL.
ONLY TWENTY?
I'LL MAKE UP THE REST WITH TRIPS BACK AND FORTH TO THE FRIDGE.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

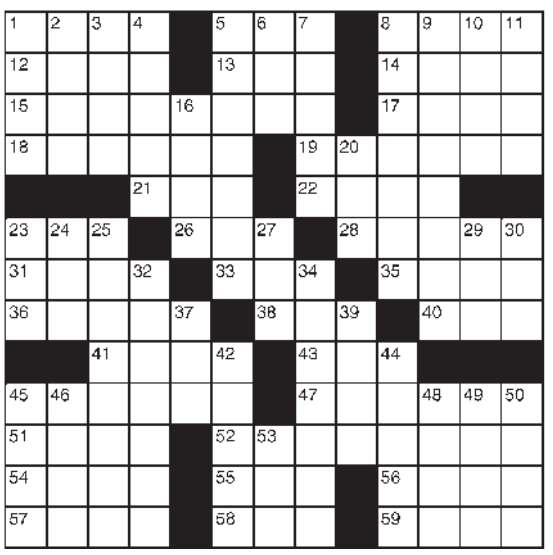
ACROSS
1 Landed
5 100%
8 Urban haze
12 Corporate symbol
13 Museum-funding org.
14 Splendor
15 Lunar light
17 Novelist Jaffe
18 Central courtyard
19 Summary
21 "No seats" sign
22 Persian leader
23 Nonstick spray
26 Away from SSW
28 Ancient theater
31 Grand
33 Mentalist's claim
35 Ladies of Spain (Abbr.)
36 For — (cheaply)
38 La-la lead-in
40 Depot (Abbr.)
41 "SNL" segment
43 Vintage
45 Retaliate
47 Noxious atmosphere
51 Magical power
52 Color-changing jewelry
54 Coup d'—
55 Deep hole
56 Jog
57 Gives a darn?
58 Flamenco cheer
59 Tries the coffee

DOWN
1 — mater
2 Booty
3 Mr. Stravinsky
4 Morrison and Braxton
5 Showy flower
6 Meadow
7 Reading lights
8 Elaborate meals
9 Freeloaders
10 Hotel chain
11 Transcript stats
16 Scorch
20 Pi follower
23 School org.
24 Spa sounds
25 Saskatchewan city
27 Superlative suffix
29 Granola morsel
30 Code-breaking gp.
32 Disentangles
34 Hype
37 Showbiz job
39 "Put — on it!"
42 Musical pace
44 Pub projectiles
45 Iowa city
46 Cast a ballot
48 iPhone voice
49 L-Q bridge
50 Literary reps
53 Texas tea

Solution time: 23 mins.

T	H	A	T	■	D	U	O	■	D	R	A	B
E	O	N	S	■	E	P	A	■	R	E	N	O
D	R	E	A	M	C	A	R	■	E	B	O	N
S	A	W	■	O	R	T	■	T	W	A	N	G
■	■	■	D	A	Y	■	T	I	C	■	■	■
S	I	M	O	N	■	P	A	N	A	C	E	A
A	N	A	G	■	E	R	R	■	R	A	J	L
S	A	T	C	H	M	O	■	C	E	N	R	E
■	■	■	O	A	T	■	C	O	Y	■	■	■
C	E	L	L	S	■	S	I	B	■	I	R	A
A	X	E	L	■	D	A	V	I	S	C	J	P
P	I	N	A	■	A	L	I	■	R	E	D	S
S	T	A	R	■	M	E	L	■	S	T	Y	E

Yesterday's answer 9-30



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Lacey Chabert, 38; Marion Cotillard, 45; Jenna Elfman, 49; Fran Drescher, 63.

Happy Birthday: Look for lucrative ways to spend your time. Do something creative or serviceable from the comfort of your home to cover day-to-day expenses. Focus on saving for something you want to purchase or pursue. Walk away from no-win situations instead of letting them consume you mentally, physically and emotionally. Call the shots instead of letting someone else control your destiny. Your numbers are 7, 12, 24, 29, 37, 43, 47.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Pay attention, but don't get involved in other people's battles. Channel your energy into self-improvement, learning and a healthy lifestyle that will help you stay safe. Save your energy for personal gains, not fruitless battles. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Your changeable attitude will be confusing to those trying to understand what you want. Be careful when dealing with children or your lover; if you show uncertainty, it will cause friction and a loss of control. Be precise and dependable. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Don't be fooled by what others do or say. You are best to gather information from a direct source, not hearsay. Someone you have worked with will use emotional means to dismantle your reputation. Don't share personal information. ✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Take a moment to calm down. Anger will not help you solve a problem you encounter with someone opposing your lifestyle or habits. Use intelligence to outmaneuver anyone trying to change you or the way you live. ✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Put your energy into something that will help you earn more money. Hard work will keep you out of trouble and lead to financial gain. A confrontation with someone you live with will leave you in a vulnerable position. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Change begins with you. Consider the past, present and what you want to strive to achieve in the future. A healthy attitude, reliable information and the ability to bring about change will encourage better relationships and prosperity. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Listen attentively, and you will find a way to deal with unreasonable people. Be charming, and you'll be able to motivate someone to see things your way. An energetic approach to love and being a team player will pay off. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Get more involved with social media, and you'll connect with someone who stimulates your mind and opens your creative imagination. Expand your knowledge and skills, and you'll develop a positive way to improve your life. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Problems will surface if you let an outsider interfere in your personal life. The less time you have to get into a debate, the easier it will be to avoid setbacks. Physical activity is favored. Romance is in the stars. ✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Uncertainty will stand between you and getting what you want. A change will be uplifting and encourage you to do things differently. Speak up and discuss your intentions with someone you can count on for practical advice. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Pay attention to your personal needs and relationships with others. What you do will be more meaningful than what you say. Don't feel you have to take part in someone else's plan when you have your own to fulfill. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* What you do to help others will lead to mixed emotions. Taking physical action and making things happen will far exceed getting into a debate with someone and accomplishing nothing. Stay focused and passionate, and forge ahead with enthusiasm. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are strong-willed, impulsive and opportunistic. You are imaginative and persuasive.

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	3	9	4	8	5	6	
4							8
5			7	1			3
7		1			8		9
9			5		6		4
3					2		5
	4	7	3	6			1
							2
				4	3	8	

Difficulty Level ★★★ 9/30

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

3	1	2	4	9	8	5	7	6
4	7	6	3	2	5	8	1	9
5	8	9	1	7	6	4	2	3
2	3	4	6	1	9	7	8	5
7	9	5	8	3	2	1	6	4
8	6	1	7	5	4	9	3	2
6	4	3	5	8	1	2	9	7
1	2	7	9	4	3	6	5	8
9	5	8	2	6	7	3	4	1

Difficulty Level ★★

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

LEATHER APPAREL Solution: 7 letters

O	G	G	L	O	V	E	S	J	Q	A	V	E	S	T
R	U	C	L	R	S	K	N	U	P	I	K	C	O	R
T	N	T	O	O	G	U	A	G	N	I	W	E	S	E
E	S	L	F	N	S	L	I	T	H	C	N	E	R	T
R	O	T	I	I	I	S	A	T	H	G	I	L	(F)	A
C	A	N	T	T	T	G	Y	K	E	E	S	(U)	C	E
H	I	L	Y	R	E	Y	A	L	S	U	(R)	A	F	W
L	E	T	L	K	T	E	C	G	E	E	P	A	A	S
B	E	M	S	O	L	Y	N	D	Z	S	U	R	S	H
N	R	N	S	U	C	I	E	I	H	X	M	E	H	C
R	E	O	G	R	R	L	S	O	H	T	T	D	I	T
E	B	T	O	T	K	A	R	S	H	S	O	O	O	E
D	M	T	S	C	H	T	S	I	A	W	Q	O	N	R
O	O	U	U	S	L	E	E	V	E	S	U	H	M	T
M	B	B	F	O	R	M	A	L	A	P	E	L	S	S

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Belt, Bomber, Buckle, Button, Caps, Collar, Color, Fashion, Faux, Flight, Formal, Fur, Glossy, Gloves, Hems, Hood, Lapels, Layer, Length, Lining, Metal, Modern, Motorcycle, Outfit, Punk, Quality, Retro, Rock, Rustic, Sets, Sewing, Shine, Short, Silky, Size, Sleeves, Smooth, Snug, Soft, Stretch, Strings, Suede, Suit, Sweater, Toque, Trench, Vest, Vintage, Waist, Warmth

Yesterday's Answer: Scraper

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NBA Finals: Star power vs depth

FLORIDA (AP)—The Lakers won both regular-season meetings between the teams—a 95-80 stifling in early November and a 113-110 squeaker in mid-December—but neither were representative of this version of the Heat. Miami was still starting Kendrick Nunn and Meyers Leonard, neither of whom cracked the rotation in the conference finals. The Heat had also yet to acquire Jae Crowder and Andrew Iguodala, and neither Tyler Herro nor Robinson was the player each would become in Orlando—a threat to erupt for a game-swinging string of buckets.

We do know this: James and Davis dominated their battle with Butler and Adebayo. Most of their respective time was spent defending each other, save for the minutes Lakers coach Frank Vogel stole with McGee and Howard on Adebayo. Their statistical totals in almost equal minutes over the two head-to-head meetings: James/Davis: 112 points (55/50/74 shooting splits), 31 rebounds, 26 assists and nine blocks/steals; Butler/Adebayo: 68 points (46/0/67 shooting splits), 30 rebounds, 15 assists and 11 block/steals.

If that trend were to continue, it would almost certainly spell a swift end to the Heat's season, barring a barrage from their superior depth. How comfortable Dragic, Herro, and Robinson can get carrying Miami's offensive burden opposite the Lakers' role players may hold the answer to how long this series persists.

There may be no better player built to stop Davis than Adebayo and no better player built to stop Adebayo than Davis. So, which player do you consider more unstoppable? It has to be Davis, a four-time First Team All-NBA selection who can score at all three levels, whereas Adebayo does the vast majority of his offensive damage in the paint. Adebayo has passed every trial in his first serious playoff minutes, but those mostly came against Myles Turner, Brook Lopez or Daniel Theis. This is the Finals, and this is Anthony Davis.

According to Second Spectrum, Adebayo spent roughly 35 possessions defending Davis over 9:37 in their two regular-season meetings. Davis scored 15 points on 14 shots and added three assists against zero turnovers, as the Lakers scored 1.23 points per possession. In the nearly 23 possessions over 5:26 that Davis spent on Adebayo, the Heat center was 0-for-3 from the field, scoring four points on eight foul shots and committing two turnovers to his single assist. Miami scored 0.8 points per possession in that time. Those are untenable figures for the Heat. Adebayo must be better, and he may well be nine months later.

An interesting stat was going around after the Heat eliminated the Celtics on Sunday: James and Butler have split 34 meetings in their careers, 17 games apiece. A closer look reveals 11 of them have come in the playoffs, where James is 8-3 against Butler, winning of a pair of second-round series against the Chicago Bulls. Again, a Heat star matches up well with his Lakers counterpart, but well may not be good enough.

Butler's best asset offensively is his ability to get to the rim and draw fouls, which he now must do against James, an elite rim protector for his position who is notorious for his ability to avoid collecting fouls. He is averaging just 1.8 personal fouls in these playoffs, the lowest of his career, mostly because he rarely guarded the opposing team's best player in the first three rounds. How often he draws Butler in the Finals will largely depend on how often Butler is attacking and how close the games are in crunch time. James defended Butler for 28 possessions over 7:27 in their two meetings this season; Butler scored two points.

Miami is 8-0 when shooting better than 37 percent from deep as a team and 8-1 when making 13 or more threes in a game. The Lakers have survived 3-point discrepancy because of the sheer domination of James and Davis, but if Butler and Adebayo can mitigate the damage L.A.'s stars can do, the rest of the Heat can swing games with their accuracy. The Lakers have enjoyed similar success at those benchmarks, only they reach them less often. The Heat's success will be heavily reliant on their more reliable explosiveness from distance, but Butler and Adebayo must ensure that advantage matters.

How decisively James and Davis can be the best two players in this series will decide how long it goes, because Miami can claim the next five or six most impactful players on a given night. That puts pressure on the Lakers' third-best player, whoever it may be, to enter the fray. Easier to rely on one plus game apiece from the likes of Green, Caldwell-Pope, Rondo and Kuzma, rather than a nightly collective effort from the Heat, or so the theory goes in favoring the Lakers. Such is the sway of James and Davis' dependability.

AP

Los Angeles Lakers' LeBron James (23) drives against Denver Nuggets defenders during the first half of an NBA conference final playoff game Thursday, Sept. 24, 2020, in Lake Buena Vista, Fla

Rivers out; 76ers, Pelicans interested

FLORIDA (AP)—Doc Rivers would easily be considered the best coach in Los Angeles Clippers history. Most wins. Most playoff appearances. Top winning percentage.

And now he's out.

Rivers announced in a statement posted to Twitter on Monday that he is not returning as coach. The move comes about two weeks after the Clippers wasted a 3-1 series lead and lost to the Denver Nuggets in the Western Conference semifinals.

"Doc has been a terrific coach for the Clippers, an incredible ambassador, and a pillar of strength during tumultuous times," Clippers Chairman Steve Ballmer said in a statement. "He won a heck of a lot of games and laid a foundation for this franchise."

The Clippers said Rivers and Ballmer came to the decision jointly

Rivers spent seven seasons with the Clippers, making the playoffs in six of them—major success for a once-woebegone franchise. This season's team, with the summer 2019 additions of Kawhi Leonard and Paul George, was expected to compete for a championship.

But losing three closeout opportunities to the Nuggets cost the Clippers a chance to play the Los Angeles Lakers in the West finals, and likely played a role in Rivers not remaining as coach.

"When I took this job, my goals were to make this a winning basketball program, a free agent destination, and bring a championship to this organization," Rivers wrote in the statement. "While I was able to accomplish most of my goals, I won't be able to see them all through."

Rivers went 356-208 over seven seasons with the Clippers, taking them to the West second round three times. But the franchise has never made the conference finals, and going 0-3 in chance to get there this year was a devastating blow.

While the Clippers shocked the NBA by parting ways with Rivers, there stands a decent chance the NBA coaching veteran won't be out of work for long. According to Marc J. Spears of The Undefeated, both the Philadelphia 76ers and New Orleans Pelicans reached out to Rivers within an hour of the news breaking.

New reputation for Nuggets

With bags on his back, Nikola Jokic playfully swerved his way through the crowd of family and friends gathered at the airport terminal.

The Denver Nuggets finally returned home after their longer-than-many-anticipated stay inside the NBA bubble.

Arriving with them, a new reputation—the comeback crew.

The Nuggets overcame a pair of 3-1 series deficits in advancing to the Western Conference finals for the first time since 2009. Their extended stay at Disney in Florida ended when LeBron James and the Los Angeles Lakers sent them packing after Game 5.

Still, they accomplished something historical in becoming only the third team in the U.S. major pro sports to rally from a pair of 3-1 deficits in the same playoffs. They joined the 1985 Kansas City Royals and 2003 Minnesota Wild.

"People around this country, around the world, who were watching the playoffs, this group of guys, you would be hard-pressed to find a better story coming out of this bubble," Nuggets coach Michael Malone said. "A bunch of young kids faced elimination, looked it in the face and just kept on surviving and advancing. ... We have something special brewing."

Celtics focus on future

Jayson Tatum emerged as a bona fide star, Jaylen Brown showed he can be a consistent presence in the lineup and Kemba Walker helped the Celtics put the failed Kyrie Irving experiment behind them.

But following their Eastern Conference finals loss to Miami, it's clear there is still work to do in Boston after the Celtics squandered their best opportunity yet under coach Brad Stevens to make it to the NBA Finals.

Stevens said he heads into the offseason lamenting only the outcome and not the effort by his players during the abnormal season.

"My regret is not what we put in. My regret is not how we prepared or worked or how hard our guys worked or how committed they were to playing and staying together," he said. "You look back at those first couple of games (against Miami) and it put us in a tough spot. I just think that ultimately we had our chances and we didn't take advantage of it enough."

Serena, Nadal win French Open opener

PARIS (AP) — No matter how much success they've had over the years, and to this day, Serena Williams and Rafael Nadal both profess to deal with doubts.

Both began this French Open with straight-set victories against overmatched foes in Court Philippe Chatrier on Monday.

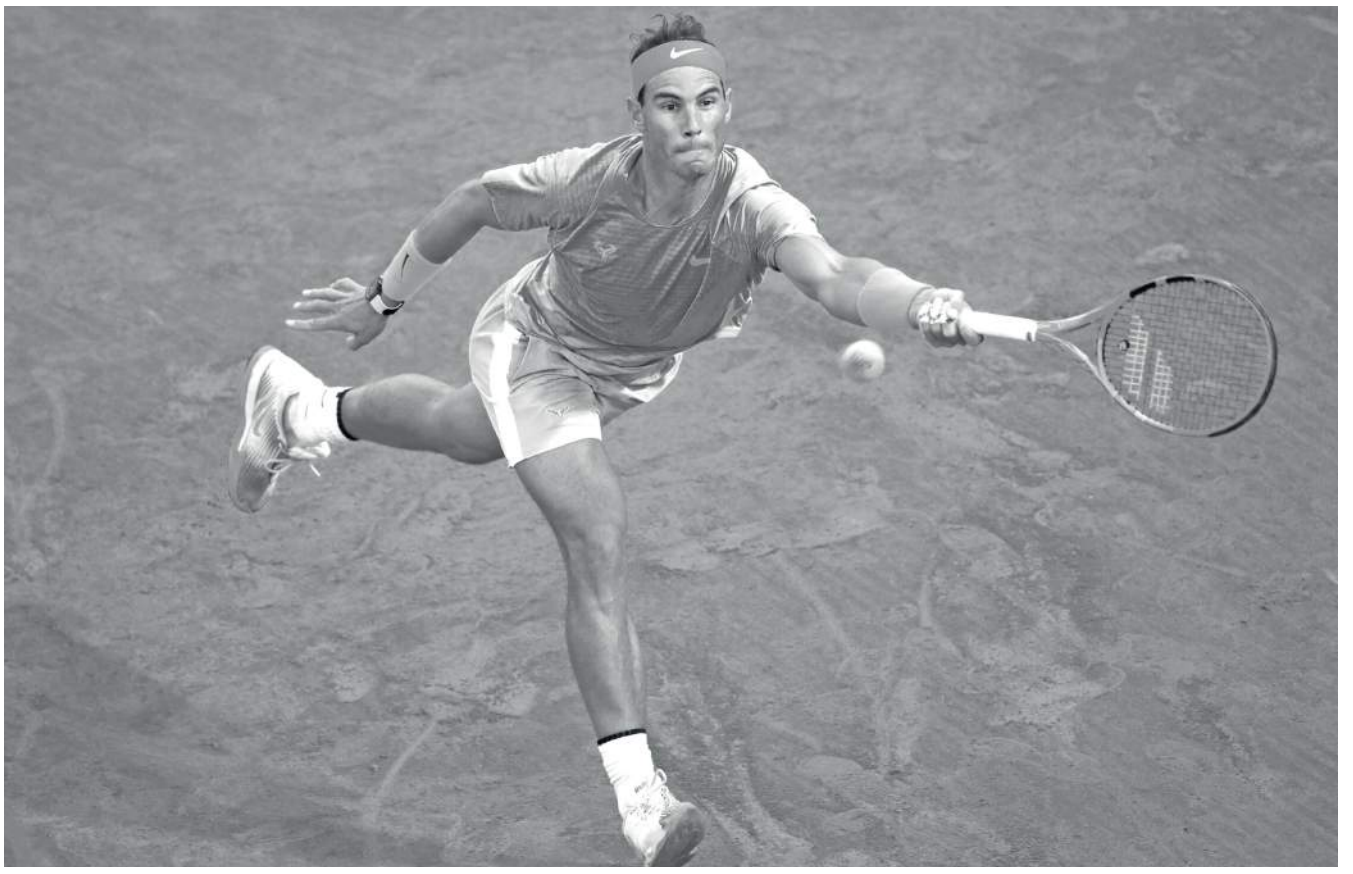
And both have something significant at stake over the coming two weeks: a chance to equal a record for Grand Slam singles titles. Williams already has 23, the most by anyone in the professional era; one more will allow her to tie Margaret Court's all-era mark.

Nadal began his attempt to pull even with rival Roger Federer for the most by a man, 20, by beating Egor Gerasimov of Belarus 6-4, 6-4, 6-2.

His 2020 debut at a place he's won 12 trophies did not change Nadal's view of things at this pandemic-postponed event: It's colder than usual, the balls are heavier than usual, he's had less preparation than usual.

"The conditions are completely different," he said, "than any other Roland Garros that we played."

Still, Gerasimov would have been forgiven for choosing the same metaphor to describe Nadal that Williams' opponent came up with: "a runaway train."



AP

Spain's Rafael Nadal returns a shot to Egor Gerasimov of Belarus in the first round match of the French Open tennis tournament at the Roland Garros stadium in Paris, France, Monday, Sept. 28, 2020.

After she played OK in the opening set, then was terrific in the second, of a 7-6 (2), 6-0 win over 102nd-ranked American Kristie Ahn, Williams—so used to being questioned about Court—was asked on this day about Nadal and Federer.

"I don't get involved in the 'greatest' talk. You know, the greatest for me is, and will always be, Jesus, so I'm going to leave it at that," Williams began.

And then she didn't leave it at that.

"Rafa, I'm obviously a huge fan of his. I always have been. But it's like you can't compare two people that are equally great. Roger, I mean, he's Roger Federer. I think that says enough," Williams continued. "So, you know, it's like I don't understand why people want to pit, 'Who's this? Who's that?' They both have spectacular careers that 99% of people can only dream of and ... every single credit and every single thing that they get, they absolutely deserve it. I'm a big fan of both, to be honest."

And rightly so. Novak Djokovic's name belongs in the conversation, too, of course.

He'll be aiming for his 18th major championship at this French Open, which he finally gets underway Tuesday with his first Grand Slam match since being disqualified at the U.S. Open.

It was in New York less than a month ago that Ahn faced Williams in the first round — and lost.

So imagine this (bad) luck of the draw: Ahn is now the only player to face Williams in the first round at two consecutive Grand Slam tournaments. Of note: Williams is 75-1 in openers at majors.

"I mean, I laughed," Ahn said. "I mean, what are the odds?"

Yet she was up to the task for most of a 72-minute, 102-point initial set Monday, twice leading it by a break.

And then?

What changed for Williams?

"I just need to play with more confidence," she explained, "like I'm Serena."

Well, yes, she was more herself for the latter half of the contest, which by the end really wasn't much of a contest.

Meanwhile, the man Nadal beat in the last two finals, Dominic Thiem, won his first match since winning the U.S. Open, advancing to the second round with a 6-4, 6-3, 6-3 victory over 2014 U.S. Open champion Marin Cilic. This, too, was a recent rematch from New York.

Thiem will next face American qualifier Jack Sock, who beat Reilly Opelka 6-4, 6-4, 6-3 and was one of seven men from the U.S. to get to the second round, the country's highest total since nine got that far in 1996; only one did a year ago in Paris.

Another American moving on was Tennys Sandgren, who saved two match points and knocked off No. 29 seed Hubert Hurkacz of Poland 7-5, 2-6, 4-6, 7-6 (1), 11-9.

Playoffs begin: Bieber vs Cole in prime matchup

CLEVELAND (AP)—Shane Bieber dominated this year for Cleveland, leading the American League in wins (8), ERA (1.63) and strikeouts (122). He didn't allow a run in six of his 12 starts.

Gerrit Cole delivered for the Yankees in his first season since signing a $324 million, nine-year contract, going 7-3 with a 2.84 ERA.

Now they meet in the playoff opener at Progressive Field, a classic pitching duel in the making on the first day of the postseason.

"We're fired up," Bieber said. "We think this is a good matchup."

For all Bieber and Cole have accomplished in the shortened regular season, it will mean little if they don't perform well to start the best-of-three series.

We're playing who?

In a year where so much about baseball has looked different, this 16-team postseason has at least one throwback element.

"It's like the old days, man, when you played a team you've never played before. It's exactly what it is," said Sandy Alomar Jr., the acting manager for the Indians. "It's very strange."

Seven of this week's eight wild-card series are pitting clubs that haven't seen each other all year, an unusual quirk after the regular season schedule was staged regionally amid the pandemic.

That means a lot of video and scouting work, especially for players that haven't been around the block. For instance, Yankees catcher Kyle Higashioka has only played 72 regular season games, including just two against wild-card foe Cleveland. The 30-year-old said New York provided him with a trove of data to peruse Monday, and he was cross-checking all of that with video work.

"Want to have that extra edge to hopefully give you the advantage in the game," he said.

Higashioka will start the opener instead of Gary Sanchez. The two-time All-Star hit .147 this year, which would have been lowest in the majors by far if he had enough at-bats to qualify. Sanchez also has been plagued by passed balls throughout his career.

Healing up

The Twins are hoping to have third baseman Josh Donaldson (calf) and center fielder Byron Buxton (concussion) back in the lineup for the opener of their series against Houston. Both were injured Friday, sat out the final two regular season games as a precaution, then participated in a workout at Target Field on Monday.

"We just want to learn as much as we can before we move forward and put anything in stone, but it was a relatively good day for both guys," manager Rocco Baldelli said.

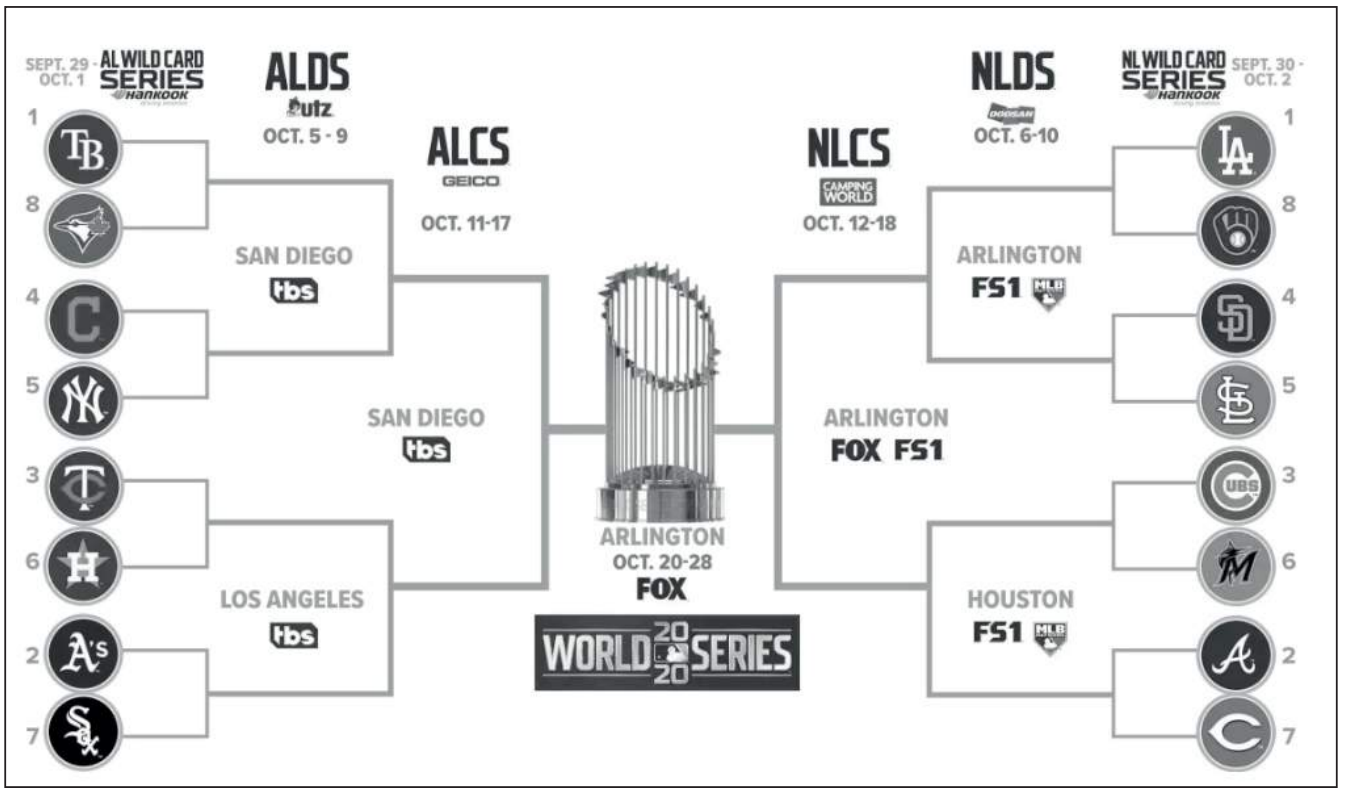
Minnesota has rarely had its full lineup this season, but if Donaldson and Buxton are a go, the entire Bomba Squad will be available.

Slumping White Sox

The White Sox backed into the postseason with losses in seven of their final eight games, including a pair of walk-off defeats. They open a wild-card series in Oakland hoping ace Lucas Giolito can play stopper.

"It's a fresh start," shortstop Tim Anderson said.

The A's are throwing 22-year-old left-hander Jesus Luzardo despite Chicago's proclivity to tee off on southpaws. The White Sox batted .285 with an .887 OPS against left-handers this season –both second best in the majors.



Mahomes outplays Jackson to lead Chiefs over Ravens

BALTIMORE (AP)—It wasn't just that Patrick Mahomes threw for a ton of yards and four touchdowns. Most impressive was how he did it.

Mahomes juked, danced, and jumped in and out of the pocket. Sometimes he just dropped back and fired pinpoint throws downfield. He tossed shovel passes and flung it sidearmed.

The common thread was that just about everything he did worked for the defending Super Bowl champion Kansas City Chiefs, who rolled past the Baltimore Ravens 34-20 on Monday night.

Mahomes put on a scintillating show while outperforming Lamar Jackson, who's 0-3 against the Chiefs and 21-1 against the rest of the NFL as a regular-season starting quarterback.

With Mahomes leading the way, the Chiefs (3-0) emphatically ended the Ravens' 14-game regular-season winning streak while extending their own run to 12 games (including playoffs). Mahomes went 31 for 42 for 385 yards and averaged 6.5 yards on his four rushing attempts.

"They don't give that guy a half-billion dollars for no reason," Ravens defensive tackle Calais Campbell said. "He just made play after play. You've got to give him respect."

Mahomes, who signed a 10-year, $503 million extension in July, gave the Chiefs their money's worth on Monday night, surgically shredding a Baltimore defense that had allowed only two touchdowns in its first two games.

AP
Kansas City Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes (15) throws under pressure by Baltimore Ravens outside linebacker Pernell McPhee (90) during the first half of an NFL game Monday, Sept. 28, 2020, in Baltimore.

"You got to give credit to Pat for leading the charge. He stepped up big," Kansas City coach Andy Reid said.

Mahomes was not intercepted, and avoided being sacked. The Chiefs led 27-10 at halftime and held on to defeat Baltimore (2-1) for the third year in a row.

"The plays we ran, we got in the right situations," Mahomes said. "I thought guys executed at a very high level on those plays."

In a duel between Mahomes, the 2018 NFL MVP, and the player who won that honor last year, Jackson was no match for the man whose resume also includes a Super Bowl MVP trophy.

Jackson completed 15 of 28 passes for 97 yards and ran for 83 yards, 30 of them on one carry during the Ravens' opening possession. It wasn't nearly enough against Mahomes, whose performance Jackson described in one word: "Outstanding."

The Chiefs scored touchdowns on their first two possessions—one on a run by Mahomes, the other on a shovel pass to Anthony Sherman—for a 13-3 lead. Following that second score, Ravens rookie Devin Duvernay fielded the kickoff and sprinted down the right sideline for a 93-yard touchdown.

Kansas City followed with a three-and-out, but Baltimore simply could not contain Mahomes for long. After he got the ball back, Mahomes completed passes of 29 and 18 yards before hitting Tyreek Hill for a 20-yard score to cap a 73-yard drive.

A 49-yard touchdown pass from Mahomes to Mecole Hardman put the Chiefs up by 17 at halftime. The only other time Jackson trailed by that much at the break in an NFL game was last year, when the Chiefs held a 23-6 lead.

In this one, Kansas City pumped the brakes in the second half before Baltimore closed to 27-20. That's when Mahomes showed why he's the league's highest-paid player and arguably the NFL's best quarterback.

During a 13-play, 75-yard drive that produced the game-clinching score, Mahomes converted a third-and-5 with an 18-yard pass and ran for 12 yards on a third-and-10. He flipped a sidearm 12-yard pass to Sammy Watkins to set up a first-and-goal at the 2, from where Mahomes tossed a touchdown pass to appreciative tackle Eric Fisher with 8:14 remaining.

Tie disgusts Burrow, Bengals

The Cincinnati Bengals didn't lose Sunday, but the 23-23 tie with the Philadelphia Eagles was just as difficult to take.

Quarterback Joe Burrow was sacked eight times, and the Bengals (0-2-1) offensive line still can't give him enough time to look downfield. The running game is virtually non-existent. The defense was good at times, but still is giving up too much on the ground.

"It's starting to hurt a little bit," acknowledged Bengals wide receiver Tyler Boyd, who caught a team-high 10 passes for 125 yards. "This team, losing and losing, I don't want that to become a thing for us because we're a talented team on both sides of the ball that can change the game."

Burrow continues to demonstrate why he was the Heisman Trophy winner and No. 1 overall draft pick. Despite the line's inability to let him get set in the pocket, he completed 31 of 44 passes for 312 yards, including touchdown passes of 1 yard and 4 yards to rookie receiver Tee Higgins. His toughness and ability to create something out of nothing kept the Bengals in the game.

NMBA

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and have the responsibility to implement the laws, code of conducts, and rules and regulations of the BWF.

Badminton Oceania added that "umpires must keep track of the scores and announce them in between each point and make calls on service faults, other player faults and lets. Any incident must also be noted by the umpire and reported to the referee. The umpires' jurisdiction exists from the time that players enter the court before starting to the match until the time that they leave once the match is complete. The umpire reports to and acts under the authority of the referee."

Participants that will complete the eight-session course will join Samoa's Joel and Cherish Reti in Pacific Oceania's pool of accredited umpires. After taking Badminton Oceania's and Samoa Badminton Federation's national technical official development course in January last year, the siblings umpired at the Pacific Games in Apia. They were also invited to officiate in the VICTOR Oceania Championships 2020 held early this year.

BLUE

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education. I have developed a sense of time management in college, which I initially struggled in. Coach Mita (Michiteru), Jersh (Angeles), and others before them, have instilled a sense of grit and hard work that has helped me during my times of struggle in school," the 21-year-old said.

"My role in the national team required a combination of being a team player and a leader, sometimes simultaneously, and I've been able to implement many of those experiences in my classes and groups; I've learned to be more considerate yet committed and honest," Relucio added.

The former captain of the CNMI Boys U18 National Team managed to juggle his time between his studies and soccer in his first year in college. He played recreational tournament in New Jersey and neighboring fields. Relucio wanted to try out for the school's club team in his freshman year, but was not able to do so, as he opted to attend the trials for the CNMI Men's National Team that played in Mongolia in the EAFF E-1 Football Championships 2019 Round 1. The Chalan Kanoa resident was a starter on the Blue Ayuyus' squad in the East Asian Football Federation-sanctioned event.

Relucio would have continued playing soccer while studying in his sophomore year at Seton Hall if not for his ACL (anterior cruciate ligament) injury. He's now recovering from injury and has rejoined the national team's training since he decided to stay on island and take online classes for the fall semester due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"I have the privilege to continue to train with the men's national team. Our trainings have been modified to follow health and safety protocols, but the team and I are grateful that the islands' response toward the pandemic has been great and that we are able to do more in training compared to other areas in the world. A handful of the other off-island players remained on island for the semester, so we have been jogging and training together during our off days as well," Relucio said.

Thankful for the opportunities

Relucio would always take the offer to don the CNMI colors.

"Any chance to play for the national team is an opportunity to give back to the community. I have mentioned this so many times—the community, most especially NMIFA, have supported and provided opportunities for me and others growing up. Reflecting, we were fortunate to experience high-level soccer, visit other countries, and be exposed to opportunities we would not have if not for the national team," Relucio said.

Through the national squad and Northern Mariana Islands Football Association's program, Relucio's former teammates and other CNMI players managed to continue their studies after getting athletic scholarships.

"We would love to share our story and knowledge with the hopes of inspiring others," the former TanHoldings Football Club team captain.

Relucio also thanked NMIFA and its coaches and officials for building an amazing program, especially for the youth, and expressed his commitment to be part of it.

"There is history to be made, and I most definitely want to be a part of that. I have only experienced a draw at the senior level (1-1 against Macau in Mongolia), so I will not stop until I have experienced a win and more."

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Ryan Relucio, seated right, joins his fellow CNMI players in taking a breather from a practice session at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville last July.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
In this 2018 file photo, the CNMI's Ryan Relucio, left, collides with a Mongolia player during their game in the EAFF E-1 Football Championships 2019 Round 1 at the Mongolian Football Federation Stadium in Ulan Bator, Mongolia.

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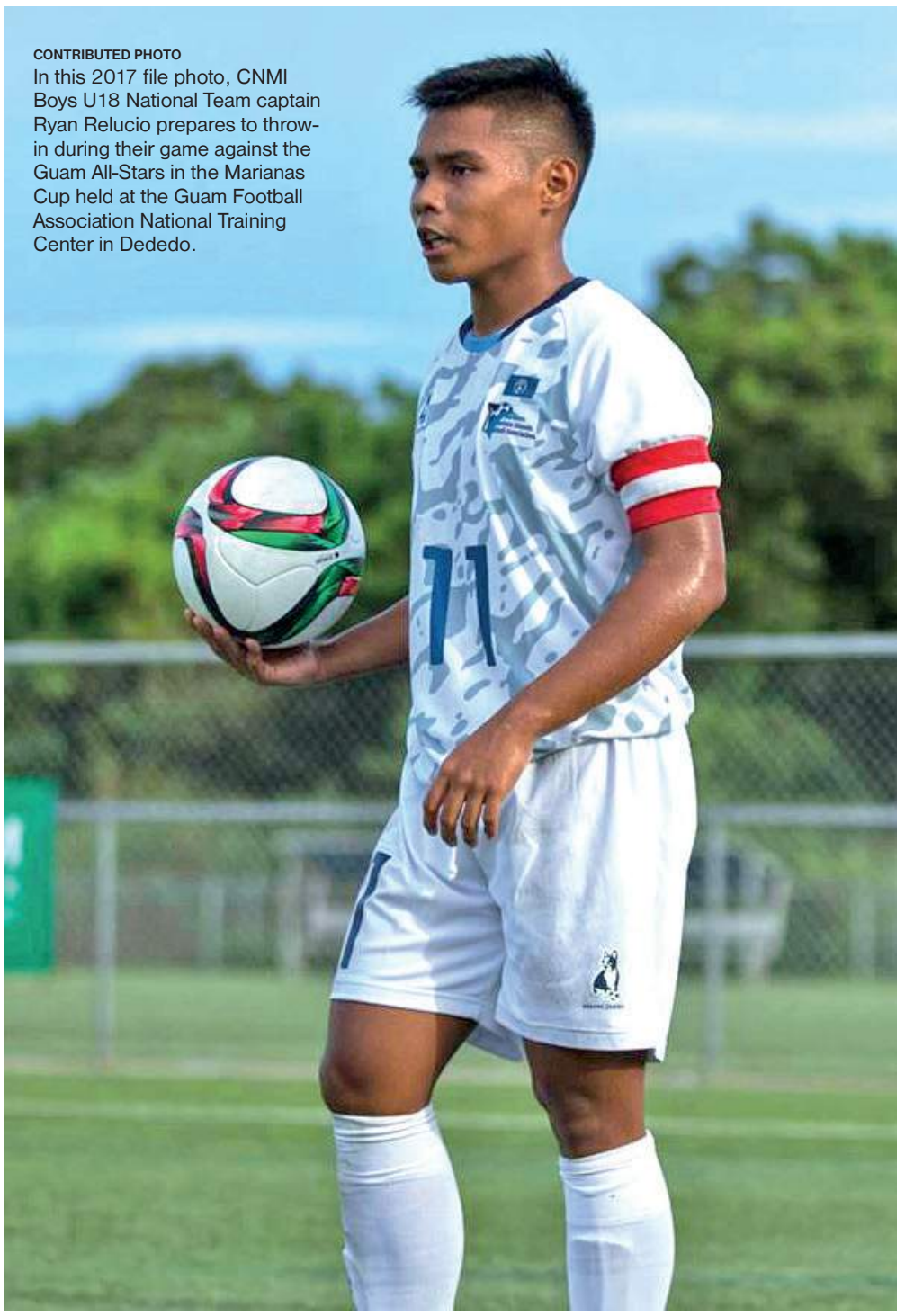
Blue Ayuyus' Relucio gets recognition

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
In this 2018 file photo, Ryan Relucio, left, battles a Japanese player for the ball during a training match in Japan.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
In this 2017 file photo, CNMI Boys U18 National Team captain Ryan Relucio prepares to throw-in during their game against the Guam All-Stars in the Marianas Cup held at the Guam Football Association National Training Center in Dededo.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Ryan Relucio made it to the Dean's List of Seton Hall University and acknowledged the skills and lessons he learned from the CNMI national team as a big help in gaining this latest achievement.

Relucio, who played for both the Commonwealth's youth and men's national teams, qualified for the Spring 2020 Dean's List of the New Jersey-based university. Seton Hall recognizes undergraduate students completing all courses with a GPA of 3.4, with no grades lower than "C", for the Dean's List at the close of every semester. The Marianas High School graduate is a junior at Seton Hall, pursuing a bachelor's degree in Physics with a major in Engineering Track.

"Being a member of the national team has equipped me with many life and leadership skills that I am now able to implement as I pursue higher

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NMBA members to take umpire course

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Northern Marianas Badminton Association members will attend Badminton Oceania's Pacific Umpire Course next month.

Badminton World Federation certified umpire David Turner, who officiated matches in the 2012 Olympic Games in London, will conduct the free online course that will be held every Monday, starting on Oct. 12. The course is divided into eight sessions and will be held at 6pm (New Zealand time)

NMBA president Merlie Tolentino said they welcome the opportunity to take and complete the course under an experienced and certified umpire like Turner, as the association works on developing a pool of officials that will facilitate local and international tournaments in the future.

According to Badminton Oceania, the region has more than 30 umpires with different levels of experiences. For the Pacific zone, umpires are categorized into two, accredited and certified. As umpires, they are in charge of the court and its immediate surroundings

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
In this 2018 file photo, game officials work on the three matches at the Northern Marianas Badminton Association-organized tournament at the TSL Sports Complex.

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